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ふあみまっ!



九辺ケンジ

GA文庫



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ふあみまっ!

「ボンジョルノ、お兄ちゃん。私はサブリナといいます。今日からお兄ちゃんの妹です」

和己のもとに両親から送りつけられてきたのは、なんと妹だった!? しかも両親によると、サブリナはなにやら事情があるようで――。

「もしかして、マフィアの隠し子?」

「スイ」

「殺し屋の卵?」

「スイ」

ぎゅ。サブリナが和己に抱きつく。

「そして……お兄ちゃんの妹です。」

逢いたかったです、お兄ちゃん」

金髪ツインテールに、碧く綺麗な瞳。

でも、世間知らずのサブリナに、和己の毎日は一気に大・崩・壊!!

第2回GA文庫大賞奨励賞受賞作。

「スイ。今日からあなたが、わたしの――おにいちゃんです」

ふあみまっ!

Lo incontri una ragazza con il nome della ragazza e Sabrina. Sabrina è un assassino. Sabrina è mia più giovane sorella!

九辺ケンジ

イラスト 鶴崎晋大

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「スイ、今日からあなたが、
わたしの——おにいちゃんです」

ふあみまっ!

Io incontrai una ragazza ieri. Il nome della ragazza è Sabrina. Sabrina è un assassino.
Sabrina è una figlia della Mafia. — Sabrina è mia più giovane sorella!

九辺ケンジ

イラスト 鶴崎貴大




●月 ▲日

僕の家には妹がやってきた。
——なぜか、宅配便で。
……しかも、全裸で。



「ひゃう!？」



●月 ×日

一緒にお風呂。どうしてこうなった？
家族とは一緒にお風呂に入り、背中を流すものだ、
サブリナは思っているらしい……あ、ころんだ。



お、大滝くん、

あ、あのね

🌙 月 ☆ 日

ま、ま、まさかの告白タ——イム!?
し、しか毛相手は憧れの……!!

Prologo.

"Hey, where do babies come from?"

Kazuki Ootaki, who was in his second year of primary school, asked his parents while they were on their way back from the sports festival.

"Oh? What's this Kazuki, you want a younger sibling?"

"Yep, I want a younger sibling."

"Well, would you prefer a little brother or a little sister?"

"A little sister of course! When I get a little sister, wouldn't she call me her Onii-chan¹?"

"That's true. If she really likes Kazuki, she might call you that."

"When I get a sister, I'll be sure to dote on her. I'll make sure that she calls me her Onii-chan! But, where do little sisters come from?"

Kazuki didn't know where babies came from. In fact, he didn't know how babies were made yet because it was too soon for him. When parents are normally asked this question, they usually reply, "babies are delivered by storks" or "they are a proof of daddy and mommy's love for each other." They would normally tell them something that would nurture the child's imagination.

However, his parents were different.

"Babies are sent by god; through the post, in a paper box."

They threw a curve ball at him.

Kazuki squinted, his eyes becoming small dots.

"Eh!? T-then, I was delivered as well!?"

¹ Onii-chan: Affectionate form of "older brother" in Japanese.

“Of course~, when you arrived, you were delivered frozen by the Kuroneko Ya●to²~.”

His mother hit the ball back.

“Ehh!? I was frozen!?”

With his eyes glistening on the verge of tears, Kazuki looked at his parents. After seeing his face, the two of them began laughing like there was no tomorrow.

This may have been the first time ever Kazuki was fooled by his parents.

But for Kazuki, it was a valuable memory.

He never would’ve imagined that his parents’ words would come true one day in the future.

² Kuroneko Yamato Transport: A delivery service in Japan.

Capitolo. 1 Sabrina

1

It was a warm Sunday morning in late April, and the sunlight was shining down. The quiet neighborhood and scent of the morning dew were refreshing.

Kazuki's house was an average residential house in a corner of the neighborhood.

「Last night, one of the greatest godfathers of the largest mafia in Italy passed away. The whole of Italy is in fear, predicting a fight for power between the mafia gangs. We would like to warn those who were planning to go to Italy to be very careful.」

While watching the morning news, Kazuki Ootaki took a bite of his toast.

"Looks like the world is in turmoil—"

While saying that, he continued to consume his toast with indifference. Kazuki was just an average second year middle school student, who looked at the TV monitor thinking it had nothing to do with him at all.

But that wasn't all.

「And now, here is the weather for today.」

"It's going to pour today! Lightning when the sky is this clear? If you think about it logically, that can't happen. I just hope that the weather doesn't change until this evening, I've got a ton of laundry to do."

He was even more worried about the weather.

"Thanks for the food."

Finished with his breakfast, Kazuki gathered his hands with a '*Clap!*' sound in thanks.

Because of his parents' jobs, Kazuki had been living by himself for nearly a year. However, he didn't really mind because he has been living like this ever since he was young.

「It's time for Today's Horoscopes Ranking~」

"Ah, it's starting."

While Kazuki was washing the plates and mug he used for breakfast, a cheerful voice rang out from the TV in the lounge.

Patting his hands dry, he rushed towards the lounge.

「Today's Horoscopes Ranking」, as its name suggested, was a segment on the show that ranked the horoscopes by their amount of luck for that day.

"Yes, it's 6th place! That's the best!"

Of course, 6th place wasn't on top of the ranks, there was a 1st place. However, Kazuki had his own reasons for being happy with 6th place.

Actually, Kazuki was just an average second year middle school student who had a motto of not causing any troubles. In other words, the 6th place that wasn't great or bad was the best spot for a guy like him.

"Your lucky item is a 'little sister'? That's not good, I don't have a little sister. Maybe I should give out candies and use one of the neighborhood kids as a substitute.... Wait, is a little sister even an item?"

Ding dong.

While Kazuki was on the second floor veranda hanging up the laundry, the doorbell suddenly rang.

"Hmm? Who would it be on a morning like this? Yes yes~."

Ding dong. The doorbell rang again while he was headed downstairs.

"Yesss~."

Ding dong, ding dong.

"Is it something important? Yes, I'm coming. Please wait for a bit~."

Ding dong. Ding dong. Diiiiing dong.

The doorbell started to ring even more. Kazuki hurried towards the front door.

"Wait– I'm opening the door!"

When Kazuki touched the door handle, the doorbell stopped ringing. He heard the sound of footsteps and someone running away, followed by the sound of a car engine as it drove away.

"Huh? No-one's here, I guess they drove off?"

Kazuki looked around after opening the door, but no one was there.

"And I thought that someone was visi– hah?"

There was a giant cardboard box laying at his feet.

Next to it was a Boston bag and a briefcase.

"Ehh? What's this?"

Thinking that the person who rang the bell left it behind, Kazuki walked out to the road to check again.

Since no one was there, he crossed his arms and tilted his head in thought.

"So the person just before left it behind... I guess."

Even though he didn't quite get what was going on, he couldn't leave the stuff outside. So Kazuki decided to bring the stuff in first.

The cardboard box was quite heavy.

"Hm–mp"

He sighed after carrying all of the stuff inside. Glancing at the cardboard box, he noticed the postal tag on it.

"Oh, so it was just a delivery. The senders are Hideki and Marina... dad and mom?"

The receiver was recorded as Kazuki.

"And the content is—‘a doll’."

A doll?

He was puzzled.

Why would they send a doll to their middle school son, even if they were his parents?

It wasn't his birthday or anything...

He wasn't even aware that he was receiving a parcel from them in the first place. More than that, he hasn't been in contact with his parents for a while.

"Well, I can't even begin to understand their behavior though."

Kazuki decided to stop thinking about it and just open the box.

He dug through the packaging in the box.

"This is..."

Kazuki widened his eyes.

In the box was a bubble wrapped doll about the size of a girl.

"Life sized!? Could this doll be... a doll for adults!? What do they want me to do with it!?"

— Do your best.

"What the hell!?"

Kazuki imagined his parents and retorted them. His parents would certainly say that to him and it was quite a bother.

More importantly, the doll had sparkling blond twin tails and had its eyes closed as if it was asleep. It was hugging its knees in the box and its almost transparent white shoulders and knees were blinding when seen through the bubble wrap.

"Uuu... even if it's a doll, I don't know where to look.... They should've wrapped it up in some cloth or something."

The doll was wonderfully made.

It could be mistaken for a real girl.

"It looks like it's actually alive."

Kazuki tried not to stare too much at the doll and touched one of the twin tails with his hand. It was as smooth as silk and felt great on his hand. He let the golden hair flow through his fingers.

"Huh?"

For a moment, it felt like the atmosphere just changed.

He looked towards the doll to check, but there was no difference.

"... I guess it's just my imagination."

Slap slap.

Since he couldn't touch the doll below its neck, he touched the cheeks this time. They were as soft as marshmallows.

Squish squish.

".... Hmm."

—!?

This time, it looked like the doll just squinted.

And he heard a voice as well...

"Ha ha, no way."

Kazuki thought that he was seeing things, so he pinched himself and looked again.

And he saw—

No changes.

"A doll is just a doll after all. Think about it, a doll won't be able to move—"

But that wasn't the case.

Blink.

The doll opened its eyes.

It opened them.

Those eyes were a beautiful blue that matched the doll's blond hair and pale skin perfectly.

".... (*Stare*)."

It was looking at him.

".... (*Stare*)."

It's looking, it's looking. It was almost drilling a hole just by staring.

Kazuki who nearly lost his mind for a moment came back to his senses and jumped back in surprise.

"W- wha, what the hell...!?"

Really!?

I- I'm glad that I didn't touch its breasts.... Wait, that's not it!

It's probably... a doll... right?

Kazuki was in a state of panic during the unexpected event, but the doll looked very calm. It looked at Kazuki in a curious manner and tilted her head.

Ah, it was pretty.

No no! That's not it!

".... Onii... chan?"

At that moment, the doll talked with a bell like cute voice.

"Onii-chan!"

"Wai-."

The doll, still wrapped in bubble wrap, leapt out from the box and put its arms around Kazuki's head in a hug.

Kazuki, who was still slow because of what was happening to him, couldn't resist her and fell backwards.

"Ouch."

His head slammed into the floor. A wave of pain hit him and hurt so much that he thought he had broken his skull.

The small, but existent breasts were pressed onto Kazuki's body.

Her back was an elegant arc, her butt was like a ripened white peach, her slim and slender thighs, and from there... well, let's just say that there was a lot to look at.

The pain from his head would've been enough to send him flying to the other side of the universe.

Wwaaait! Hold on!

What is this, what the hell's going on!?

Cccaalm down! Calm down! This is just a dream! It's only a fantasy!

One of the common symptoms of puberty is wild delusions. What am I thinking so early in the morning?

Disappear wild delusions! You are banished from my head!

"I wanted to meet you, Onii-chan."

Squeeze.



"Gyaa!"

The doll pressed on to his arm and because of that, the body parts that he was seeing were twisting and turning before his eyes.

It was certainly reality.

"Eh? Huh? Onii-chan!? Before that, you're not a doll!? You're a real person!?"

"Si¹."

The girl nodded her head.

"You're a person!? But why were you inside a box!?"

The girl looked away to try to think of something and gathered her hands with a 'Pon' sound.

"Si, I am a real boxed girl²!"

"No, no. Don't joke around like that!"

2

They were now in the kitchen.

「The number that you've tried to call is currently turned off or un—」

"Oh, man!"

Kazuki hung up the phone grumbling. He has tried to call his parents' mobile a few times, but the call wouldn't connect.

Really, just what were they doing, those parents of mine.

He has been ticked off about his parents' absence before, but it was never as bad as it was today.

¹ Si - Yes in Italian.

² Sheltered princesses are called boxed girls.

Kazuki's parents called themselves treasure hunters and made a living out of travelling around the world to dig up hidden treasures. But whenever they came back, they would bring back enormous troubles and irritate Kazuki all the time.

Last year, they brought back a beautiful sapphire as a present but it turned out to be a cursed star sapphire that was hidden deep inside the jungles that would kill its owners. Moreover, Kazuki came down with a mysterious flu that actually killed him (his fever went down afterwards, but the sapphire was nowhere to be found).

That wasn't the only time his parents brought back trouble into the house. It was just the tip of the iceberg.

Anyway, it was impossible to know what his parents would do next.

Kazuki's parents had a large influence over Kazuki's life and inspired his motto of living a 'normal' life was inspired by them.

Putting that aside, just who was this girl?

Even so, his father and mother wouldn't just say 'We found a cute girl while travelling so we've packed her into a box and sent it to you!' ...probably.

...

.....

..... Right?

I don't think they did... but it's no good. His parents may have actually done that.

Anyway, should I listen to her story first?

If my parents did kidnap her, then I should tell them how harsh the consequences will be.

No, I should gladly report them to the police!

Click.

As Kazuki was thinking that, the door to the lounge opened. In the doorway was the doll, no, the girl from just now.

This time, she wasn't naked. She was wearing a black one piece with a cardigan that was laced around the edges. The clothes were probably in that Boston bag that came with the box.

In her hands, she was holding the brief case. It didn't suit a cute girl like her.

Since the girl looked emotionless, she really looked like a well-made doll.

"I'm sorry about before... I forgot that I was naked... I was just happy..."

It didn't show on her face, but she must've been embarrassed because her voice trailed off.

"Because I met you, Onii-chan."

"Onii-chan? Are you talking about me? I'm not too sure about it though."

"Si. Now then."

"Heh, I see. Well then let's get an explana—"

Squeeze. The girl hugged him again.

"No no, that's not it! Why are you hugging me!?"

Kazuki pushed the girl away. When he did, she looked at him with an expression that said that she didn't understand.

"Who are you? And why are you calling me your Onii-chan?"

"Si."

The girl stood up straight.

"Buon giorno³, Onii-chan. My name is Sabrina. I'm your little sister starting today."

And she bowed her head.

³ Good morning in Italian.

Kazuki wasn't able to understand what the girl, who identified herself as Sabrina, just said.

Sabrina spoke in Japanese, so it wasn't that he didn't understand the language.

Kazuki tried to slowly gather his thoughts.

Little sister... Onii-chan ...

The girl whose name was Sabrina, a little sister.

Me, an Onii-chan.

A younger sister: a female younger sibling born from the same parents, little brother's wife's sister, or a younger sister of the husband or the wife (defined from the Fujita Japanese Dictionary).

This girl called me an Onii-chan.

But if my memory serves me correctly, I'm an only child.

But a little sister and me, an Onii-chan?

So that means...

"Well?"

He didn't understand at all.

"Well then."

Squeeze. Sabrina hugged him as if she's done what she needed to do. She probably wanted to hug Kazuki to death.

"Please wait for a moment, Sabrina-san."

"No⁴, it's Sabrina. Since Onii-chan is my Onii-chan, please call me 'Sabrina'."

⁴ No in Italian is 'No.' She said the entire sentence in Japanese, except 'No,' which was in Italian.

She looked up while she said that. Kazuki thought, 'what kind of a situation was this?' But if he gave up now, then he wouldn't be able to hear the full story. He decided to call her 'Sabrina,' like she wanted him to.

"Uh, so... Sabrina."

"Si."

Sabrina must've been happy because she buried her head into Kazuki's chest. It looked like 'Si' was yes and 'No' meant no.

"Hey Sabrina, I haven't got a clue as to what's going on. Have you heard anything from my parents?"

"No. Haven't you seen them Onii-chan? It was Hideki and Marina who dropped me off here."

"No, I haven't seen them... Ah."

The doorbell that continued to ring. The sound of the car engine as they drove off. The box that had the girl inside.

And the parents that couldn't be contacted.

From that, Kazuki was able to come to the only logical conclusion.

"The two of them... they ran off after dumping it all on me."

That was right, Kazuki's parents had come back, and after leaving Sabrina behind in a box, they decided to flee.

After inspecting the sticker on the box, he noticed that the address wasn't written on it. If it was the shipping service, they wouldn't have been able to deliver it.

"Without any explanations.... This is something that shouldn't occur in real life. What should I do."

"Actually, there was something that they wanted me to give to you, Onii-chan."

"Huh? There was!? Thank god."

It would've been better if his parents gave it to him in person. No, it would've been better if they actually sat down and talked to him. But Kazuki hasn't realized yet, that was why he was always fooled by his parents.

"This must be a Blu-ray disk. Now that I mention it, I think there's a Blu-ray player here..."

Kazuki sat down and played the disk immediately. Meanwhile, Sabrina was using Kazuki's shoulder as a pillow and was resting there with her eyes closed.

「Ahh, can you hear this?」

「Hi Kazuki~」

Even though his parents recorded this on Blu-ray, there were no visuals. Only their voices came out from the pitch black TV. Those laid back voices were his parents for sure.

「You mentioned that you wanted to have a younger sister before didn't you? It looks like god made a mistake and took his time. It's quite late, but he sent it via the post.」

The contents were a headache straight from the start.

Kazuki did remember that he wanted a little sister when he was younger. He also remembered his parents lying to him, saying that babies were delivered via the post. He was slightly traumatized because he was made fun of in his morals class when he told them about it.

「How is it~? Wasn't that funny~. We name it the 'Boxed Girl'. Also, your father worked very hard~.」

「Kazuki, you can look up to me!」

"As if I would!"

He shouted at the TV, even though he knew that it was useless to do so.

It really felt like the 'Boxed Girl' thing was planned by his parents. He was worried about what they were going to say next, but he couldn't stop it because they haven't mentioned Sabrina.

「So anyway, she's your little sister from now on.」

Said his father.

「She's your little sister from now on~.」

Followed by his mother. The two of them continue in unison,

「That's all!」

He was clearly trolled.

"That's it!?"

Kazuki yelled again. There were no explanations.

「Well, you don't need to treat her like a little sister. You could always take her as your wife. Regardless, she's a girl so it doesn't really matter.」

「No~, really now Kazuki's dad~. However, they're by themselves~. Kazuki, we'll be expecting a grandchild soon~.」

"... Wife."

Sabrina abruptly stood up.

"Don't react to that! No, no! Don't take it seriously!"

Sabrina didn't even blink but was blushing and Kazuki tried to justify himself furiously. From the TV, the devilish laughter from his parents continued to pour out.

"Kuh, those people..."

Veins popped out from his temple and his eyebrows twitched.

Kazuki was reaching the heights of his patience. He was trying with all his strength not to snap the disk in half.

「We should get to the point since Kazuki might be reaching his limits~. Our son is probably trying his best not to snap the disk in half with his veins popping out from his temples.」

「Yes, I suppose we should. I wanted to tease him a bit more, but I guess it can't be helped.... To tell the truth, Kazuki.」

His father changed his speech so quickly he was almost able to hear a skidding sound.

He wished his father spoke that way from the beginning.

「Actually, someone who we've been indebted to for a long time has passed away.」

"Ehh?"

Kazuki was taken aback by the unexpected seriousness.

「Sabrina is that person's daughter.」

「That person wrote in his will, 'If something should happen to me, please adopt Sabrina as your child~.'」

「Sabrina's mother is no longer here, so we thought that it would be best if we take her into our household.」

「We're sorry we just dumped it all on you Kazuki~. But we didn't have enough time to explain~.」

"That's..."

As Kazuki put on a troubled face, there was an explosion noise from the TV speakers. The noise continued to ring out.

"Eh—."

As he reacted to the noise, Kazuki's view suddenly flipped to face the ceiling. It was Sabrina who had pushed him down.

"Uu—pp"

Her small breasts pressed down on Kazuki's face.

Without him noticing, Sabrina took an object out and aimed it at the TV.

Bang bang bang.

A similar noise was heard ringing out from the TV.

This time, from the top of Kazuki's head.

"W-What!? What's going on!?"

"No Onii-chan, it's ticklish."

Kazuki crawled out from Sabrina's protection and looked around him.

He felt a sense of danger.

And it was crystal clear where the feeling came from.

"The TV..."

There were mysterious smoking holes in the TV monitor. Enough to match the number of times he heard the noise above his head.

And there was Sabrina, shivering. Kazuki pointed at the object she was holding in her hands.

"S-Sabrina, that's..."

Although he's never seen one in real life, he recognized it from movies and animes.

It was shiny and black in color, its body shaped like an L and had a small hole at the tip.

"So, it's an average pistol."

From that point on, understood the situation. With that, all color drained from Kazuki's face.

"Ah!"

Sabrina let out a short gasp.

"I shot back by reflex. I'm sorry, Onii-chan."

"Shot back!? Moreover, what's that!"

"This is a Beretta Px4, a pistol."

"No, I didn't ask for the gun name! I'm asking why you have something like that."

Kazuki's sight fell on the brief case that Sabrina had and saw that it was opened. Inside, there was a gun magazine and a silencer in its slots.

"Si, this is the portable 'toolbox'."

"Toolbox!? W-What the hell are you!?"

As he yelled out, the TV sounded broken.

「... anyway... didn't expect them to find us...」

「They attacked us so suddenly... got sweaty... right~.」

It sounded like they were fine. Well they dropped Sabrina off, so his parents had to be fine.

When Kazuki's mother mentioned that there was no time, she was probably referring to this. As the disk's content was about to finish, his mother spoke with a voice that sounded like she just remembered to say something.

Her voice sounded like it was about to cut off, but Kazuki was able to hear it quite clearly.

「Ah, that's right. Sabrina is the estranged daughter of a mafia boss, so she's an amateur assassin you see~. That~ is~ why~, you need to treat her well, got it?」

Boom.

With a large puff of smoke, the TV turned off.

The lounge became dead silent.

Kazuki stiffly turned his head to the broken TV and then to Sabrina.

"You're the hidden child of a mafia boss?"

"Si."

"And an amateur assassin?"

"Si."

Squeeze. Sabrina clung to him.

"And I'm your little sister."

Kazuki was too surprised to talk. He could only open and close his mouth like a fish.

The lucky item today was a 'little sister.'

Kazuki would never believe that horoscope show again.

3

While Kazuki was cleaning a room out for Sabrina, it was already getting dark outside.

—Those parents of mine.

Kazuki thought to himself as he was doing the dishes after having dinner.

What do they mean little sister?

We're around the same age and moreover, she's a girl. There's no way I would be able to accept that so quickly.

I don't know if they were lying or not, but a mafia boss's hidden child and an amateur assassin...

Well, accepting her as my little sister isn't the problem right now. It would be cruel of me to throw her out, so I guess I'll have to judge the situation for a few days.

"What should I do..."

Kazuki sighed quite loudly.

When he finished the dishes and walked into the lounge, Sabrina walked in the front door.

"Oh, did you go outside?"

"Si. I wondered what I could do to help, so I finished it since you didn't seem to have it set up."

"Finish what up?"

"The traps for intruders."

"Eh?"

At Sabrina's words, he froze.

"When you say traps for intruders, you mean like traps to prevent break-ins...?"

"Si. Even a rat needs to be eliminated if it sneaks in."

"T-that's not good!"

Kazuki reached out to the front door.

"No. You can't."

"Eh—."

Sabrina tried to stop him. But it was too late and Kazuki touched the front door.

At that moment, a strong current of electricity ran through his body.

"Wwwwoooooahhh! Why did you set it up inside as wellll!"

Kazuki who just got electrified opened the door as he fell down.

Stumbling through the door, he took a step outside when his leg was caught by a piano string and he was pulled upwards.

"Woahahahahah—ah!"

The force threw him straight into the yard in an arc and he slammed down on his back.

"It hurts. Ugh... how did I get caught up in this...!?"

"Onii-chan, it's dangerous to stay there."

"Huh?"

He turned his face upwards.

Whoosh!

An arrow landed right in the spot where his head was before.

The second and the third arrows followed, aimed at Kazuki who jumped backwards in shock.

"Give it a rest alre—."

Click.

Kazuki's hand touched something behind him.

"Don't tell me..."

Kazuki remembered a movie that had a detective that never died.

He got up and swiftly dived forward like he was performing a header⁵. Simultaneously, something behind him exploded.

⁵ Header as in the soccer pass/shot method.

"So I was right— ack."

With a movie-like explosion as his backdrop, Kazuki flew off and landed, no, fell in front of his home's front door.

"Urrrp."

Sabrina squatted down and looked at the sprawled out Kazuki.

"You shouldn't worry too much about it, Onii-chan. There are no holes in the traps, so you don't need to try them out for yourself. Well then, I'll set up the traps again."

Urrrp

Mustering all of his strength, Kazuki grabbed onto Sabrina's one piece as she stood up.

4

The clock was already pointing to 12 when they came back inside. Kazuki had told Sabrina, who had a surprised look on her face, to remove all the traps. Meanwhile, he cleaned up the yard and went around the neighborhood apologizing for the ruckus the two caused.

And today was a Sunday as well...

Kazuki collapsed out onto his desk.

I-I'm... tired.

Maybe it was too much of a stretch to say that I was playing around with some fireworks.

The way that our next door neighbors, the Inoues, looked at me... the relationships with my neighbors that I worked so hard on...

Leaving that aside, that girl.

She shot (death by a bullet), set up traps (death by explosion, death by piercing) and came inside a box (death by eroticness?) how many times did she nearly kill me today?

If I don't do something about it, I'll die soon.

I should try my best to not get involved with her!

Knock knock

"Whoa!"

Kazuki who was thinking to himself jumped in surprise at the sudden knocking.

He looked towards the door to see if someone knocked, but it didn't seem like it.

"Huh?"

The knocking sounds actually turned out to be the rain drops hitting his window.

"Rain? That's right; the weather mentioned that today."

The sound of the raindrops grew louder. And with a sound that was like a beast's howl, the rainy sky flashed for a moment.

"So there's lighting and thunder as well..."

Since Kazuki wasn't scared of bad weather, he wasn't greatly concerned by it.

But then the sky lit up again.

A thundering sound ran out shortly afterwards.

"Wow that was quite loud. It must've hit nearby."

While he was still dazed by the loud shockwave, he heard a knock on the door.

"Eh!?"

He felt almost as shocked as if he had been struck by the lightning outside.

Right now, there were only two people in the house. If it wasn't him who knocked then it was obviously Sabrina.

What did she want so late at night?

Kazuki fell deep into thought while he reached out for the handle.

He thought of all the things that happened to him that day and imagined what would happen in the future.

Gulp.

He didn't want to open the door at all.

He wanted to pretend that he was asleep.

But since the light leaked out between the door's hinges, he wouldn't be able to pull that off.

Kazuki could only respond.

"Ah, yeah. Come in."

At his door was obviously Sabrina. She was in some simple patterned pajamas.

"I'm glad that you weren't asleep Onii-chan."

"No, I was just about to go to sleep."

He lightly brushed her off.

"I see...."

Sabrina looked down. Kazuki felt a sense of guilt in his heart.

He didn't want to be involved with her for any longer. He didn't want any more trouble.

"Umm... Onii-chan, could you do me a favor..."

She asked him to do something for her!

While Sabrina was trailing her words, Kazuki had a bad feeling.

"Well~ I really want to help you out, but it's late. So why don't you ask me tomorrow? I'm a bit tired, so I want to sleep soon."

Feeling guilty about it, Kazuki gently turned her down.

But what he said worsened the situation.

"Si. If you're going to sleep now, then it's great for me. Actually... please let me sleep in your room as well Onii-chan."

Is that how you're going to play!

Kazuki's mind ascended to the heavens. He dug his own grave with the excuse that he told her, thinking he would get away it.

Looking at Sabrina carefully, she was holding her pillow behind her back.

Do you really want to sleep with me!?

How much more are you going to bother me?

While Kazuki was racking his brain trying to think of a good excuse, Sabrina softly spoke.

"Actually, I'm still scared of thunder..."

The sound of thunder still rang out outside.

Each time there was a crack of thunder, Sabrina flinched.

"Sabrina..."

"... And I had a scary dream just now."

Sabrina who had a bold face before now looked uneasy.

But that was to be expected.

Sabrina had just lost her father.

She didn't have a mother, so she had no-one to rely on.

Even under those circumstances, she left her motherland and came to this foreign country.

She would obviously be scared.

Before he even noticed it, Kazuki no longer felt like avoiding Sabrina.

If she could be relaxed just by being near a guy like me...

Now, all that remained in Kazuki's heart was an answer.

"... Ok. Let's sleep together."

...Or so he said.

But isn't this dangerous on many different levels...?

They were only sleeping in the same bed with the lights off, but Kazuki realized how embarrassing the situation was.

Sabrina seemed like a neat girl. But that same girl was in her pajamas next to Kazuki.

Trying his hardest to keep his mind off the situation, he kept his back turned against her.

Squeeze.

However, Sabrina was tightly hugging Kazuki's arm, so his movements were limited.

The feeling of the girl's soft skin could be felt on his arm.

The sweet scent tickled his nose.

Because of his embarrassment and a slight sense of selfishness, Kazuki was regretting letting her sleep with him.

"Isn't a single bed too small for two people? I've got quilts, so I can sleep on the floor instead."

Kazuki tried to persuade Sabrina till the end, however...

"No, I like it. I feel reassured when we're sleeping together like this."

He was shot down instantly.

It can't be helped. I'll try to clear my head.

That's right, there isn't anyone next to me.

So, I can't feel anything.

All I have to do is to close my eyes and go to sleep, like I always do.

It's not hard at all...

As Kazuki was purifying his mind, the sky flashed and the light came through the curtains.

"— Eeep."

"Kyaa."

Sabrina shrank down and hugged even tighter.

She wasn't just hugging his arm, but his back as well- increasing the surface of contact. Her "that part" was rubbing against Kazuki's leg.

Emergency!! Emergency!!

Inside Kazuki's head, the sirens went off to warn him of the emergency.

"S-Sabrina! This is dangerous! Stay back a little!"

"N, no...!!"

Whaaaaaa.

Save me father, mother.

Please give me wisdom to escape this situation!

「Well, you don't need to treat her like a little sister. You could always take her as your wife. Regardless, she's a girl so it doesn't really matter.」

「No~, really now Kazuki's dad~. However, they're by themselves~. Kazuki, we'll be expecting a grandchild soon~.」

In his head, his parents' words and their devilish laughter resounded.

I was an idiot for relying on my parents!

Wait! T-this is no joke! It's dangerous, dangerous, dangerous, dangerous!

If I don't do something about this situation, I might actually do something really bad!

While he was partially in a state of panic, the sky lit up once more, as if it was delivering the final blow.

"– Eeep."

"Waaa."

Spin spin spin spin.

His eyes began to spin, he wasn't able to focus his eyesight.

It was pointless to empty his head.

For a while now, it's become almost a bother to resist that voice in his head, whispering "Haven't you resisted for long enough?" (The voice sounded like his parents for some reason).

As Kazuki was about to let go of his morals,

"Onii-chan..."

Hearing Sabrina's voice, Kazuki came back to his senses.

She was curled up in a ball.

She was probably really scared of the stormy weather.

Scary, scary, scary, she repeated to herself.

What was I about to do to a scared girl like her?

He no longer felt the same way as before.

Instead, he felt that he should protect her.

The sky lit up.

"— Eeep."

Kazuki gently hugged Sabrina who was scared stiff.

"... One, two, three."

And he started to count so that he could help Sabrina feel at ease.

"... Onii-chan?"

"It's something that I learned from my father. He said that if you count to three after lightning strikes and hear no thunder, it means that it's gone somewhere far away."

He smiled to Sabrina who was still trembling.

"Just now, there was a lightning strike but no sounds. So it's ok, just think that the thunder has gone somewhere far away. It's not that scary."

"... Onii-chan."

Sabrina dug into Kazuki's chest as if she was rubbing her nose on him.

"Onii-chan is really like the brother that I imagined you would be."

Great, she looked better than before.

Now that I've changed the topic, will she be able to fall asleep?

"That's that, but Sabrina, I was wondering when I met you earlier today, did you know about me before?"

"... Si. I met you once when we were younger."

"Really!? I-I'm sorry, umm, I can't really remember..."

"Si. It's understandable if you don't remember me. We only briefly met after all, and I only found out afterwards that it was you, Onii-chan."

The thunderstorm passed and the sound of the falling rain surrounded them.

"... But it was one of my most valuable memories."

Kazuki silently looked at Sabrina's face..

And Sabrina started to talk about herself.

"I am the daughter of the godfather of a powerful Italian mafia, the 'Jevini Family'. However, my mother passed away when I was very young.

"Why?"

"I don't know. No-one ever told me before.... So I was moved to a cottage and started living there. My father visited the cottage a few times a year, but he always wore a stern face so I didn't know how he was feeling. So when I heard that my father had passed away, I didn't know if I honestly felt saddened or not."

Sabrina looked unconcerned. Her face was expressionless.

"So that's why I had been living inside a cottage while being trained to become an assassin."

"... But that's too harsh."

"Harsh, is it?"

Sabrina blinked her eyes to show that she found it strange. For Sabrina who had no-one to compare her life to, she didn't think of it as abnormal.

"I don't know about it being harsh, but they were the boring days. However, Hideki and Marina visited me sometimes and talked about you Onii-chan. I liked hearing about you. So whenever I had the time, I would always imagine you and hope that I would meet you one day. And after all this time, I was finally able to meet you."

She had no memories of her mother.

She had no memories of her father either.

Kazuki was the only person Sabrina was able to relate to.

Someone that she thought of from a place far away.

So that must've been why she was so friendly to Kazuki when she met him properly for the first time.

Sabrina's cheeks became slightly pink.

"I-I'm sorry for only talking about myself. I studied Japanese so that I could meet Onii-chan, but is my Japanese strange?"

"Ah, I see. So that's why you were able to speak so fluently. Its fine, it's not strange at all."

After listening to Sabrina, Kazuki started to think.

I misunderstood...

Sabrina really was the daughter of a mafia boss and a trained assassin.

However, the Sabrina before him was just a girl afraid of thunderstorms, a girl who was unable to sleep alone because of a nightmare. She was slightly unusual, but she was just a normal girl.

It wouldn't be bad to let Sabrina stay in our house for a while.

Kazuki gently stroked Sabrina's hair.

"Well, the storm has already passed and it's a bit late now, so shall we sleep? You are also tired from your long trip, right?"

"Si. Then let's sleep."

After saying that, Sabrina slowly took something out from the pillow that she'd brought.

Thunk.

With a heavy sound, an L shaped black object was laid under her pillow.

"... What's that?"

"This? It's the Beretta Px4 that I explained befo—"

"I'm not asking for the gun name! Why are you placing such a dangerous object like that under your pillow!?"

"If I don't, I can't fall asleep. Isn't it normal to put a gun within your reach to sleep peacefully?"

"Not at all!!!!"

I take back what I said before, she definitely isn't a normal girl.

Once again, Kazuki had regained his old views on Sabrina.

And so, Kazuki's long day finally came to an end.

Obviously, Kazuki wasn't able to sleep a wink that night.

Capitolo. 2 A Threatened Everyday life!

1

The next day was a clear spring morning.

Kazuki opened his eyes to the bright morning sun.

"-Uhh."

His little sister, who abruptly appeared yesterday, was mounting him.

The mount position: A position highly regarded in mixed martial arts as a position that was very advantageous and simple to execute.

"..."

Sabrina looked down on Kazuki wordlessly. Her expression was as cold as ice.

There wasn't an ounce of sleepiness left in Kazuki.

Waiiiiiit!

Wait wait wait!

Why was I in this situation again?

Why does Sabrina look angry?

Did I do something while she was asleep!?

Did I snore? Do I grind my teeth? Do I have any bad sleeping habits?

Ah, don't tell me I touched Sabrina's breast or something while she was sleeping!?

Since the bed was small, it's not out of the question - ack.

"I'm sorry."



It looked like the situation would get worse if he kept silent, so he apologized just in case. However, Sabrina looked at him with a blank expression and tilted her head.

"Isn't the morning greeting usually 'Good morning'?"

"No, I just thought that I did something that made you angry."

"No."

Looking amused, Sabrina tilted her head the other way. Thankfully, it looks like he hadn't done anything wrong.

He sighed in relief.

"So... why are we in this situation?"

All males have "that" first thing the morning, and Sabrina happened to be mounting his waist. He tried to think of a way to keep her from finding out.

"Si. When I woke up, Onii-chan was still asleep. While I was looking at your sleeping face, you turned around and I couldn't see it anymore. So I moved you here. If you're here, then I can see you clearly."

"Ah... ha ha... is that right."

Although he laughed bitterly, Sabrina looked quite proud of herself, so he didn't tell her to get off.

While still in that position, Kazuki searched for the alarm clock with his hands. Since the clock was in its usual position, it was quite easy to find without looking.

"Hmm? What's this?"

What Kazuki picked up was definitely his alarm clock. Although, it was now unusable because of a hole in the middle.

Pieces of metal and plastic fell out of the destroyed alarm clock.

"Si. It was making a ruckus and disturbing your sleep, so I eliminated it."

Her expression hasn't changed, but she said 'Eh heh' and somehow looked proud of her achievement.

"Eliminate!? But that's what an alarm clock does! Wait, then that means that the alarm went off. What time is it?"

Kazuki looked at the clock on the wall. Its hands were pointing to 7:45.

"Whoa! Not good! I'm going to be late!"

"... Uuu."

Kazuki kicked off his blanket as he got up. Sabrina, who was on top of him, was now covered by the blanket and rolled backwards.

"Ah, sorry about that Sabrina."

Like a hamster looking out from its home, Sabrina peeked out from the blanket.

"Why are you in such a hurry, Onii-chan?"

"I'm going to be late for school at this rate."

"School?"

"Yep. Don't you know what school is, Sabrina?"

"Si."

Since Sabrina wasn't allowed to leave her cottage, it seems like she didn't know much about schools. It was going to be difficult to explain schools to her, so he rushed his explanation.

"Hmm... school is a place where children in the same age group study together."

"Why do they have to study together?"

"Mh—mm, because it's compulsory education, but you wouldn't understand would you...? To put it simply, it's like work for the children."

"Work...? Is it painful to do?"

"It is~. Since it starts in the morning and continues until the afternoon."

Although he said that, Kazuki had friends at school and he fit in with the other students. He was enjoying his likeable school life. But since there were no students who actually enjoyed studying, he could only explain it like that.

"Ah! Now that I think about it, I didn't have a bath yesterday since it was so hectic. The bath should be heated up; I guess I'll take a bath before I go."

"Bath..."

Sabrina, who looked like she had something to say, bobbed her twin tails.

"You haven't had a shower yet, have you? Sorry, do you mind if I take one first? I think I'll be late if I don't take one now. That is, unless you don't want to go in after me?"

"No, I don't mind. I need to prepare a few things before I go in the bath, so please go in first."

Kazuki thought she meant that girls had to prepare things that boys didn't know about and said:

"Thanks, then I'll do what you say and take a bath first."

"Si. See you later."

Not deeply thinking about what Sabrina said, he headed to the bathroom.

Kazuki's bathroom was larger than a normal household's. This was because his parents liked to rest after their travels and so they choose a bathroom that suited their preference.

Of course, Kazuki really liked it as well.

Whew, it feels good.

Since yesterday was quite tiring, his body was stiffer than he thought.

Whew, this is heavenly. Didn't a famous person once say, "Baths are the essence of humanity?"

... I might be wrong, but who cares.

With a viva nonno¹ like feeling, he placed a bath towel on his head and stretched out his legs in the large bathtub. Even though he didn't have the time, he was submerging himself happily.

Kazuki's face relaxed and anyone would've been able to see how happy he was.

Knock knock.

Just when Kazuki was getting relaxed, someone knocked on the frosted glass door.

"Onii-chan, may I?"

"Yes, what is it?"

It was Sabrina. Pondering what she wanted from him, Kazuki lazily replied.

Subsequently, the door opened with some unexpected words from her.

"Thanks for waiting."

"-Eeh?"

Surprisingly, Sabrina walked in.

She only had a bath towel around her. It was too short, so that place was nearly visible.

Realizing what was going on, Kazuki jumped up from the bathtub purely by reflex.

Kazuki was obviously naked, his towel was on his head. Getting up like this meant...

"Ah-."

"..."

¹ Viva Nonno - "Viva nonno" means "Long live the grandfather." This phrase was used in a song by a Japanese band called "The Drifters." The song, called <いい湯だな>, translated to "what a good bath." Since then, some people have used "Viva Nonno" as a phrase that they say when entering a bath.

Sabrina looked at Kazuki with a blank face. She looked down slightly, but quickly blushed and turned her face away.

"Whoaaaaaa!"

He hurriedly wrapped the bath towel that was on his head around his waist, and rushed away from her to widen their distance.

"Wwwwwhat is it!? Why did you come in, Sabrina!?"

Her twin tails were gone and her straight hair flowed down her back. Her white skin looked like it would be melted away by the hot air. He was able to tell by looking at her small but puffy breasts, her slim waist, and her small but firm butt, that her body was clearly superb.

He was amazed by her body as much as when she was in the box, but this look was just as appealing.

He was unable to tell what she was thinking by her expression, but she was slightly wobbly and her face was dyed bright red.

"I- I read that Japanese family members wash each others' back while in the bath. I-I'm really embarrassed, but there is the saying 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do,' and since we're siblings... please look after me."

"What?! What are you going to do?"

Step. Sabrina took her first step towards the bathtub.

"Whooaa, no, Sabrina! You can't come in!"

"No, we're brother and sister. I will wash your back."

"Heeeeeeeeeek."

For some reason, he yelled out loud.

With an overwhelming spirit, Sabrina shortened the distance step by step.

She was right in front of hi-.

At that moment, Sabrina slipped on the wet tiles and lost her balance. The bath towel slipped off her.

"Watch out!"

Kazuki reached out to Sabrina by reflex. He ended up holding her tight in a hug.

They came into contact, and Sabrina's breasts were touching Kazuki.

"... Onii-chan."

"Whoaa. I'm sorry Sabrina. It wasn't on purpose!"

He hurriedly backed off from Sabrina who hung her head low in embarrassment.

He couldn't look at her, so he covered his eyes with a hand and stretched out the other one in an apologetic pose.

"W-wait! Wait for a second, just calm down! And about what you just said, Sabrina, the thing about family members washing each others' backs! It's not true at all!"

"Not true?"

Sabrina, who had covered herself with the bath towel, widened her eyes in surprise.

"That's right, it's not true!"

"Then, what about entering baths together?"

"They don't."

"What about washing other people's backs?"

"They don't do that either."

"Washing other people's backs?"

"They don't! Why are you asking twice!?"

After a long silence, Sabrina opened her mouth.

"... Si. So I was mistaken, but it's a bit disappointing -achoo."

While she was talking, Sabrina cutely sneezed. Even though it was spring, being in a single bath towel wasn't enough.

"W-why don't you take a bath now Sabrina. Y-y-you might catch a cold like this."

Still shaken up by the experience, Kazuki stuttered.

"But Onii-chan will..."

"I'm fine. I needed to get out anyway. So come in, warm yourself up in the bath."

Kazuki who wanted to escape as soon as possible fled from the bathroom as he said that.

"Why did such a troublesome thing happen so early in the morning!? A-achoo!"

Kazuki's loud sneeze echoed through his house.

He cooled down his body that got hot in many different ways. He dried his hair with a hairdryer and changed into his school uniform. Kazuki then grabbed the bag hanging from his desk, and ran down the stairs.

"Ah, I should probably tell Sabrina before I go to school."

He was going to head out the door, but Kazuki turned around and went to the bathroom.

There was only a door between Sabrina and him. Knowing that made his heart beat faster, but he tried to keep a straight face and talked to the frosted glass door.

"Sabrina, have you warmed yourself up?"

"Si."

"Good, then I'm off to school now."

"Umm, what about me...?"

Sabrina's voice clearly had a sense of perplexity mixed in.

That's right, Kazuki knew nothing about what Sabrina was supposed to do from now on. He hadn't thought about it either.

"I see, I guess you'll be uncomfortable if you're in a situation like this. Sorry, Sabrina. Umm, so... why don't you look after the house today? I'll ask my parents what you should do from now on."

"... Si. Umm, Onii-chan... what time will you be coming back?"

"Some time in the afternoon, I think. I'll come back as soon as I can when school finishes."

After telling her that, Kazuki left his house and started to run.

2

Ding dong dang dong.

The morning bell at Ouba Middle School, the school that Kazuki attended, rang.

Kazuki made it just in time, and slumped down into his seat.

"Hey. That was quite a close one today, even though you normally arrive pretty early."

Kazuki was still out of breath. When he looked up, he saw Ryouta Miyamoto - his childhood friend, whom he's known since primary school, standing there.

"...Oh, it's only you Ryouta. Something happened at my home this morning... so I barely made it."

"Something happened? It sounds like quite a scandal, what happened?"

"You see, today-"

When he woke up, his little sister was mounting him and examining his face.

While he was taking a bath, his little sister tried to wash his back wearing only a bath towel.

"...Nothing, really."

He couldn't say either of them.

"Tell me. Please? I said tell me!"

"It's really nothing. Ah, don't bother me like that."

Ryouta clung to him like a leech. While Kazuki tried to think of something to say, a girl walked towards him.

"Hello, Ootaki-kun."

The girl had brown hair held in place by a hairpin. She had round, cute eyes and always wore her characteristic smile that warmed peoples' hearts.

She was Saki Kinoshita, starting this year, she was Kazuki's classmate.

"H-h-hey!"

"Ouch."

He bit his tongue trying to answer quickly. Kazuki flung Ryouta off him and sat up straight, pretending that nothing happened.

Saki only blinked at Ryouta, who fell on the floor brilliantly.

"H-hey Kinoshita! The weather is nice today!"

"Y-yeah, it is. But is he alright? I don't think Miyamoto-kun is moving..."

"It's ok, it's ok! Ryouta is like that sometimes. He said he's entering the 'Nirvana' state, or something. So you don't need to worry about him."

"Hu hu, how unique. But Ootaki-kun, you were late to school today. I thought you were going to be absent since you usually arrive early."

Her gentle smile was really charming.

He just realized something.



Kazuki and Saki had never talked like this before. In fact, it's the first time he's had a proper conversation with her. However, what surprised him the most was that she knew that Kazuki always came to school early.

Why did she?

Was she always looking at me...? Well, that's not likely.

Kazuki shook his head to shake off his delusional thoughts.

It was probably because she was the class president. She must've known about the individuals in the class. Even though he knew that there was no special meaning behind it, he felt slightly happy knowing that someone cared about him.

"Did something happen?"

"A few things got messy yesterday, so it was problematic."

"Are you having trouble? Are you ok? If you're ok with me, why don't you tell me about it?"

"N-no, it's alright. It's not a big deal anyway."

He was happy that Saki offered to listen to him, but he couldn't just shout out "Somehow, I've got a little sister!" Furthermore, he couldn't say that his new little sister happened to be "the hidden child of a mafia's boss who is also an amateur assassin," even if his life depended on it.

"I see. Well, that's fine then. If there's anything that I can do, just ask me. Let's try our best this week!"

Being called over by her friend, Saki said "see you," and went to her group of friends while waving her hand at him.

Kazuki was looking at her in a trance when Ryouta who has revived put him in a headlock.

"Who's going to Nirvana? Why you!"

"Whoa, Ryouta. I didn't say that!"

"Anyways, I was trying to take a peek at Kinoshita's panties while she was distracted, but I failed."

"If you try something like that, Kinoshita really will send you to Nirvana."

"I'm only kidding. But give it up, she's way out of your league."

Flinch. Kazuki's body stiffened.

"W-what are you saying?"

"I'm talking about Kinoshita. I've known you for a long time, so I can read you like a book."

Ryouta poked out his mouth and puffed his chest out. Kazuki who was completely defeated couldn't even make an excuse.

"Saki Kinoshita... her father works at the city council and her mother teaches gardening. Her hobby is gardening thanks to her mother's influence. Her grades are above average and she's a friendly person who cares deeply about other people. She doesn't discriminate between males and females, so she is ranked first or second within our grade."

"...Why do you know so much about her?"

"Heh, what a foolish question. I am the school's information broker. For your information, the number of boys who asked her out last year is 36, and everyone was shot down. The rumors say that the former captain of the soccer club Wakabiyashi-senpai was one of them."

"Really!? You mean the same Wakabiyashi-senpai who's famous for being popular!? The guy who receives enough chocolates on Valentine's Day to count to three digits? He actually liked someone!? ...What's with your hand?"

"It's obvious, pay me. Information isn't free. I can look into it for you."

"You're charging me!? We're friends!"

"So we need to get this over and done with."

"I see... I have helped you countless times during tests, but we should get that over and done with. Do your best in your studies while you're gathering your information."

The two of them looked at each other. They were about to go at each other, but their homeroom teacher walked in.

"Aren't you the lively one?"

"I should be saying that to you, Ryouta."

The two of them glared at each other, but since homeroom had started, they snorted at each other and Ryouta returned to his seat.

Kazuki softened his expression as he saw his friend's back.

Their usual dialogue.

The everyday life that he had lost yesterday could be found here.

He looked outside the window.

"How peaceful."

The sky was cloudless outside.



Under that cloudless blue sky, a blond girl was on the streets, holding onto a briefcase which did not suit her.

"...Where is this school place?"

This girl was Sabrina. Although she was on her way to Kazuki's school, she didn't know where it was and has subsequently gotten lost.

Grumble.

From her back, she heard a loud noise.

Sabrina looked back and saw a collapsed woman dressed in nun's robes.

The woman looked to be approximately 20 years old. While she was still lying on the ground, she looked up and started to talk while grinding her teeth at the same time.

"My dear lamb's meat... no, my dear lamb... What's the matter? Why do you seem so lost...?"

Gruummmble. The grumbling sound was heard again. The nun's stomach seemed to be the source of the noise.

"Who are you?"

"My lost lamb, you have been wandering around for a while. Are you looking for something?"

"Si. I am looking for the school my brother attends."

"School? There are a lot of different ones, but the closest would be Ouba Middle School over there."

The nun pointed off in the distance. On top of the hill that she was pointing at, a building was visible.

"So that's the school.... Si. Thank you."

"No no, it was nothing. Eh, what? I don't need to be compensated, but if you want to pay me back somehow, why don't you give me some foo- huh, what?"

Finding out where she had to go, Sabrina left the nun who was still talking and started walking towards the school to see her dear brother.



Kazuki's class had a PE for the second lesson. The boys were playing soft ball in the middle of the field, while the girls were doing long distance running at the nearby tracks.

The refreshing sound of a metal bat hitting the ball echoed through the field.

Ryouta, who was the pitcher, yelled out:

"Right! Kazuki!"

"Alright!"

It was a strong hit. However, Kazuki leapt up and caught the ball.

"Nice catch. You're in a good form today."

"Well, of course~."

He threw the ball back to Ryouta.

That's right. This was his usual life.

Kazuki felt a brief sense of peace, being free of Sabrina.

He glanced at the tracks. Over there, he spotted Saki amongst the girls who were running at their own pace.

"Ha... Kinoshita is pretty even when she's running."

"Kazuki, another one!"

Hearing Ryouta's voice, he turned around. This time, it was a high right flyer. It would be quite easy to catch the ball as it was falling.

It was alright, he could catch this normally.

He placed his glove beneath the falling ball. Right at that moment, he spotted someone out of the corner of his eye.

His eyes widened in surprise.

"Sabri- kuh."

As he was about to say her name, the ball landed on Kazuki's head.

Dong.

With a sound of a giant bell, the impact sent a shockwave through Kazuki's body.

While he was still uneasy on his feet, he looked towards the school gates where he spotted Sabrina.

"Why is Sabrina here...?"

He wasn't delusional.

Standing at the school gates was Sabrina, who should've been looking after the house.

She was holding the briefcase, also known as the "toolbox," in her hands.

Sabrina must've noticed Kazuki as well, because she headed straight towards him.

Step step step.

Without any hesitation, she walked through the school gates and inside the school. A few students noticed her as well.

But the PE teacher Kitajawa stood in her path.

Kitajawa was a very muscular teacher, to the point where some people thought that his brain was muscular as well. He practiced judo moves on the male students and touched female students in inappropriate ways in the name of education.

Wow, it just had to be Mr. Kitajawa!

"Sabrina, please don't do anything stupid-"

However, a man's dream is fragile.

As soon as Mr. Kitajawa tried to stop Sabrina, the 2 meter tall man was sent flying by a girl almost half his size.

Drop.

A puff of dust rose up from the ground.

She... she's done it now...

Kitajawa didn't even move after being thrown on the ground.

The blond girl was even more expressionless than before after taking down a fully grown man.

The students froze after witnessing the situation.

In an instant, the school yard which was so peaceful before became a battlefield.

"Sa...brina?"

Kazuki slowly walked towards her. As he did, Sabrina's Noh² mask-like face softened. She started running towards Kazuki.

"Onii-chan."

Squeeze. She hugged him.

"Her brother...?"

"Ootaki-kun knows that girl?"

"How can she be his little sister when she's clearly not Japanese?"

As if they were seeing a rare sight, everyone's eyes fell on Kazuki. So this was how it felt to be in the hot seat. Kazuki found out for the first time in his life how hurtful peoples' stares were.

How did this happen?

Ah, if my life was a game, I would restart it from this morning.

Should I have said yesterday morning? Then I wouldn't have opened that box.

No, if he hadn't been born to those parents of his in the first place—.

"Do you know that girl, Ootaki-kun?"

The one representing the class in finding out who the girl was was Saki. Kazuki, who was half denying the reality of her question, came back to his senses.

² A Noh mask is a mask used in traditional Japanese plays. They appear to be crying and smiling at the same time.

"Huh? Yeah. It's like this, something happened to her family, so my parents decided to look after her and let her stay at our house. Ah ha ha ha..."

"Ehh!? But that means that you guys are living together? But, weren't your parents away from home all the time Ootaki-kun?"

"No that's... huh? How did you know that my parents were always out of the house?"

"Ah! T-that's uh, I overheard it somewhere, and I remembered because I thought that it was really amazing of you. Anyway... does that mean that you guys are living by yourselves?"

"Si. It is exactly as you've said. In Japanese, it was... 'sharing beds'?"

"Sharing beds!?"

"Sabrina! You mean sharing houses! No, that's wrong as well! Kinoshita, we are living under the same roof... but it's different! Sabrina is just my little sister, so nothing weird will happen!"

"But this girl might not think of it like that... no, wait... Hold on Saki... it's too early to think of it like th..."

Saki started talking to herself, so what Kazuki was saying didn't reach her ears.

"Umm, Kinoshita?"

"Huh? Ah, sorry."

Saki came back to her senses.

Sabrina, who was still hugging Kazuki, abruptly removed a gun from her sleeves. She aimed at Saki, and pulled the trigger.

"Wh—oa"

Kazuki was able to push the gun far enough away for the bullet to miss Saki by a hairs' breadth.

"W-wha-wha-wha-what are you doing, Sabrina!?"

"My intuition told me to assassinate this woman. This woman is dangerous."

"You're a lot more dangerous than her!"

Sta-re. Sabrina looked up at him.

"You've been acting funny towards this girl, Onii-chan."

"Ugh...."

Flinch. She was quite sharp.

"Who is this woman to you, Onii-chan?"

"I-I don't know what you mean, Sabrina."

"Don't tell me... even though you have me. Onii-chan... me or that woman, which one of us do you consider your little sister?"

"What's with the 2 choices!?"

While Kazuki was being asked the puzzling question by Sabrina; Saki, who was previously frozen solid, finally talked. After all, Saki had been shot at by Sabrina just moments before.

"Huh? Huh? Hold on! That thing that she's holding is-"

"I-it's just a toy! Sabrina likes these kinds of things, you see!"

"But the noise was..."

"I-it's just blanks! It was made overseas, so it's quite detailed!"

"But, I think something flew past my face..."

"You're imagining things! Ah ha... ha ha ha... ha."

Saki didn't look convinced, but Kazuki forced himself to laugh it off.

Anyway, that was settled. Well, let's just say it was.

Kazuki faced Sabrina and started to talk about the main issue.

"Anyway, why are you at school Sabrina?"

"Si. I didn't know the way and got lost, but someone told me the way to get here."

"Ah, so you got lost. Sorry, I guess I didn't tell you where the school was. You did well coming here by yourself- is not it! I didn't ask how you got here, I told you to look after the house didn't I?"

"... Si."

"So why did you come?"

Kazuki changed his voice to a slightly intimidating tone. Sabrina looked down to the ground. As if mimicking her heart, her twin tails drooped as well.

"You not talking is troublesome as we-"

"I wanted... to help you with your work, Onii-chan."

With a voice that felt like that was about to disappear, Sabrina stuttered her words silently.

"This morning, you said that... there was painful work for you at school. I know that you told me to stay at home, but I can't sit around comfortably when you are working so hard at school.... So, I came to help you even if it was only slightly."

"Sabrina..."

"I'm sorry for going against our promise."

Sabrina's shoulders were slightly trembling. She must've thought that she was going to be punished since she went against their promise.

She came here for my sake.

I couldn't get angry at Sabrina.

"...The one who should be apologizing is me. I didn't explain it well enough and caused the misunderstanding. I have to go to school, but it's not a painful place to be. Thanks for worrying about me."

He patted her head instead.

"... Onii-chan?"

Sabrina looked up as if she wanted to check Kazuki's expression. When he smiled, Sabrina hugged him with a satisfied look.

"Kinoshita."

"Huh? Ah, yes?"

Saki answered in surprise because she had been looking at Kazuki and Sabrina with a stern face.

"I'm sorry for troubling you today, but I can't just leave Sabrina here, so I think I'll need to take the day off. I'm sorry, but could you let me go for today?"

"Huh? Ehh!? That's ok, but..."

"Hold it right there!"

Ryouta suddenly popped in.

"Your cute little sister came all the way here for you. So we'll look after her today in our class. What do you guys think!"

「Yeah!」

Everyone in the class agreed.

Kazuki's class was quite quick to adapt to good or bad circumstances. Everyone was welcoming.

"Looks like you don't have to take the day off, boss."

"Who're you calling boss."

He shook off Ryouta's hand on his shoulder.

"But it's too sudden to look after Sabrina in our class, and it's impossible. Right, Kinoshita?"

"Hmm, you're right. It's a bit..."

"I guess you can go ba—... sharing beds."

"Alright, why don't we ask the teacher!?"

"Huh!? Kinoshita!?"

For some reason, Saki decided to go along with Ryouta's idea.

"Is that really ok?"

"Sure. Since Sabrina is cute, she's very welcome. ... And there are a few things that I want to hear about."

With a clenched fist, Saki looked at Sabrina with a serious expression.

At that moment, the school bells rang.

Everyone in his class and Sabrina walked off the field.

And Kitajawa who was still not moving had been left behind.

3

Next break, a crowd of people stormed Kazuki's class - second year class six. In the middle of this crowd sat Kazuki, and next to him was Sabrina.

Everyone in his classroom asked their homeroom teacher for permission, and the teacher allowed them straight away.

Sabrina was now surrounded by a bunch of people like she was holding a press conference.

"What are your hobbies?" "Do you have a boyfriend?" "Is naporitan called naporitan because it was made in Naples³?"

It looked like Sabrina wouldn't speak to anyone but Kazuki.

Sabrina's sleepy face while leaning on Kazuki's shoulder was quite cute, but Kazuki couldn't answer all the questions by himself. And for the record, naporitans actually originated in Japan.

"Sorry, Sabrina hasn't been in Japan long, so she doesn't know Japanese very well."

His classmates' excitement wouldn't die out no matter what Kazuki said. The festival like excitement continued.

"She's like a doll." "She's so cute." "Moe~." "Sabrina's my wife."

The last comment was completely random.

"Everyone calm down. If you make a ruckus like this, then Sabrina will be scared."

Saki stepped in to take control of the situation. It was difficult for Kazuki to silence the class by himself, but thanks to Saki, the crowd started to settle down.

"Thanks Kinoshita."

"No, don't mind it. This is a class president's duty as well. Anyway, just ask me when you need something."

Saki didn't look grumpy at all. In fact, she was actually worried about Kazuki.

Kinoshita is really nice...

It was troublesome that Sabrina came to school, but I'm really glad that I'm able to talk to Kinoshita like this.

This must be what they call a "blessing in disguise."

Maybe it wasn't so bad to live with Sabrina after all.

³ Naporitan - A Japanese noodle dish, named after Naples, Italy (hence "napoli"). It's called "Naporitan" instead "Napolitan" because phonetically, the Japanese language writes "R" for both R and L sounds.

Saki smiled at Kazuki and turned her focus to Sabrina.

"Hello, Sabrina, my name is Saki Kinoshita. Nice to meet you."

She extended her hand towards Sabrina for a handshake.

Hmm, what a wonderful sight.

Kinoshita might make a good older sister for Sabrina.

If the two of them were on friendlier terms, would I be able to invite Kinoshita to my house?

If I do, I'll be able to talk to Kinoshita naturally.

That might be nice, almost like a bonus.

Bite.

Without warning, Sabrina bit Saki's hand.

"Kyaa? Ouch! That hurt!"

"Whoo- ah. What are you doing Sabrina!?"

Kazuki quickly separated the two of them.

"The only one who can stand behind me is Onii-chan."

"Why are you talking like an assassin from somewhere!? Also, what you said was wrong! She wasn't even behind your back!"

Saki, who had just been bitten, crouched in a corner of the classroom trembling and holding her hand.

"K-Kinoshita, are you alright!?"

"As I expected, she declared war... If she's going to play like that, then I'll..."



Just like before, Saki seemed to be deep in thought again. Kazuki's voice didn't reach her .

"Uuu... if it's like this, not only will my school life be affected, but Kinoshita might hate me..."

Somehow, they made it to the end of the fourth lesson.

Sabrina has been sitting fairly quietly next to Kazuki (as long as Saki didn't approach her). Although, when Kazuki was going to the bathroom during the break, Sabrina followed him to the boys' toilets. Even so, it was nothing compared to what Sabrina did before.

Since he didn't know what Sabrina might do, Kazuki has been on the edge of his seat.

"Uuu, somehow, my head is hurting..."

After the fourth lesson, it was lunch time. Some students from other classes came into the classroom to eat with friends, or join tables together to form a larger table for themselves. The class was starting to get noisy again.

"Onii-chan, is something starting?"

"Ah, it's just lunch time. We didn't bring our lunch, so we'll get something from the canteen."

"Si. I understand."

While the two of them were about to exit the classroom, Saki (who was near the door) called out to them.

"H-huh? Ootaki-kun, y-you didn't bring any lunch today, right?"

For some reason, Saki's voice sounded unnatural, like a robot.

"Yeah, I didn't bring any since I was busy with this and that yesterday."

"I-I see..."

When Kazuki replied like that, Saki was squirming, as if she wanted to say something to him.

"Umm, well... then."

Sss.

She hesitantly took out something from a pouch⁴ with cute patterns on it.

"T-this is the lunch that I packed.."

"Hmm, so you can cook as well Kinoshita. That's amazing."

"...Y-yeah. I'm not great, but I can."

"I usually bring frozen food or leftovers from dinn-"

Wait, hold on!

Kazuki gulped.

Huh? What's this atmosphere?

Why is Kinoshita giving her lunch to me?

Could this be, could it, could it...

It's only a possibility, but am I about to receive a handmade lunch from Kinoshita!?

Kazuki started to imagine all of the possibilities.

Kinoshita opened her mouth to talk.

"You know, I don't have much of an appetite today, so if you're ok with it, you can have min-"

This!?

"Ootaki-kun can—."

⁴ In Japan, students bring their lunch (bentos) in pouches. They are also called bento-bags and bento-pouches.

I can!?

"Eat it-."

Eat it-!?

Bite.

Bite!? ... Huh?

"Kyaa! S-S-Sabrina!? It hurts!?"

"Ahh-ah! Wait Sabrina, what are you doing!?"

"I bit her."

"I can see that! You don't need to tell me! Sorry Kinoshita, are you alright?"

"... Y-yeah, I'm fine. You don't need to worry about me. Moreover, you can take th... huh?"

Saki checked her hands for the pouch she was holding moments before, but it was gone.

"Heh? What's this?"

There was a voice coming from the corridor. Just outside the door, there was a very fat boy holding Saki's pouch.

It looks like the pouch flew outside when Sabrina bit Saki's hand.

"Ah! That guy is Futomaru Ujeki-kun, who's infamous for his appetite!"

"A flying lunch. Yes, thanks for the food."

"Kyaa- ah. W-wait! That's my lunch!"

As her face glistened with tears, Saki chased after the boy who ran away with a speed that didn't match his size.

"What was that just now..."

Kazuki muttered to himself, as he looked blankly at them.

When the siblings headed to the canteen, it was overflowing with students who were also there for lunch.

To make it even worse, all of the students here were in middle school. They all had a large appetite. When they were hungry, no-one could stop or calm the students down.

The canteen resembled a battlefield.

"Hmm, we're too late.... Sorry Sabrina, I wanted to buy lunch here, but it looks like it'll be a challenge."

Kazuki didn't have a solution. Next to him, Sabrina looked at the crowd of people expressionlessly.

"Ha, this isn't good. I think I might die from hunger..."

Hearing Kazuki's complaint, Sabrina twitched her eyebrow.

"Onii-chan... will die?"

"Yeah, I haven't eaten anything since this morning, so I think it's over for me."

"Leave it to me. I'll take care of the crowd of people."

Sabrina slowly opened her "toolbox," and tried to remove a small pineapple shaped object, most likely a grenade.

"Whoa- ah."

Kazuki quickly closed the case. He looked around him, thankfully it seemed like the other students were so busy getting food that they didn't notice the contents of the briefcase.

"What are you trying to do out of the blue!?"

"It was an emergency, I will remove all obstacles."

"What do you mean, remove...? Anyway, weapons are not allowed!"

"Si. Then I will go unarmed."

After saying that, Sabrina stood up and silently tried to launch an attack against a male student who was struggling in the crowd of people.

"Wait—!"

Before she was able to execute her attack, Kazuki picked up Sabrina from behind her.

That was close...

It was really close. Since Kazuki picked Sabrina up, the karate chop didn't come into contact with the male student's head. Instead, it cut through the air, barely missing him. It still managed to rip the collar of the male student's uniform.

Hieeeeeeee.

What monstrous strength. If someone was hit with a chop like that, then it would have ended in tragedy.

"... Onii-chan."

Sabrina, who was in a hug, blushed with embarrassment. She then turned around to hug him back.

"..."

Kazuki didn't have the strength left to say anything in response. Anyway, he was now able to let go of Sabrina and put some distance between them and the crowd of people. Sabrina was still dangling from his neck.

"Hey Sabrina, it doesn't matter if you're attacking with or without a weapon. The point is, you shouldn't attack anyone in the first place."

"Why is that?"

"You're asking me why!?"

"Si. I really don't know."

"Huh?"

"I was taught to remove anyone who was in my way. So in order to secure your lunch, I tried to do my job and remove all obstacles."

"When you say remove-"

"...?"

Sabrina tilted her head in confusion.

It looked like she really didn't understand.

It was quite worrying how little common sense she had.

But Kazuki could somewhat understand her. When Sabrina was back in Italy, she never set foot outside her home, and was taught how to become an assassin.

The girl who was even younger than him only knew how to kill and didn't question it.

Kazuki felt saddened by the truth and it hit him deep in his heart.

... Also, Sabrina didn't try to harm others for herself.

She tried to harm other people to get food for me when I said that I was hungry.

She had a kind heart.

When he stopped thinking about it:

"Hey Sabrina,"

Kazuki slowly opened his mouth to talk.

"I hate fighting and I try my best to live a peaceful life. When people fight, they can get hurt. The injured person will obviously feel saddened, and the one who caused the injury will be also saddened in the end."

Kazuki suddenly remembered what happened at the sports carnival during his second year of primary school when he had a fight with a senior.

"Well, sometimes a fight is unavoidable. But even then, you need to do your best to avoid it."

Because he only met her yesterday, talking to her like this might be presumptuous. But what Kazuki was saying was from his heart.

"Will you be sad when I hurt a person, Onii-chan?"

"Yes, I'll be sad."

"Even if I use a weapon?"

"Yes."

"Unarmed as well?"

"Yes."

"Si. Then I will stop. I will also stop trying to become a full fledged assassin."

"It can't be helped, I knew that it would be hard for you to give it up so easily when all you have learned in your life was killing. But do you think you can change a little bit at a time? I'll be cheering for you as we- ehh!?"

Kazuki was actually responding to what he expected to hear from Sabrina, but when he realized what she actually said, it was like he was making fun of her.

"Are... you really going to give it up?"

"Si. I don't want to make you sad, Onii-chan."

Sabrina nodded her head. It seemed like Kazuki didn't misunderstand her.

"If you do that, then I'll be really thankful... but will you be ok? Deciding it so easily."

Thinking that things will turn out ok somehow, Kazuki happily gave Sabrina's head a pat. As he did, Sabrina smiled gently and put on a dazzling expression.

"Then, it's a promise?"

"Promise...? So it's an 'Omertà'."

"Omertà?"

"Omertà is the mafia's code of silence. If you break it, then you will be severely punished."

"Severely punished!? Uuu, it sounds dangerous. But Omertà huh... Well then, this will be our Omertà Sabrina. But without the punishment."

"An Omertà with Onii-chan..."

Sabrina repeated the word Omertà again happily.

It looked like she really was determined to give up on being an assassin. So now, there shouldn't be any need for the contents of her "toolbox."

Now he was able to return to his everyday life. Now things were looking up for Kazuki, or so he thought:

"Yes, then I will use non-lethal attacks. I will also use non-lethal ammunition as well."

His hopes were dashed.

"Huh? T-that's not what I meant at all!"

"The effectiveness will be significantly reduced, but it'll be ok. I will definitely remove them all."

"Remove what!?"

"The obstacles, of course. Now then."

Sabrina escaped Kazuki's grasp with a jolt. Kazuki quickly set out to stop Sabrina attacking the students.

"She doesn't understand at all!"

In the end, they didn't get any lunch. Afterwards they were able to finish their classes without any trouble.

It was now after school. Since Kazuki wasn't involved in any club activities, he decided to go home with Sabrina.

Ta da da da da.

As he was about to leave through the main gates, he heard someone's footsteps behind him.

Skid—

And the person stopped right before the two of them.

"What a coincidence, Ootaki-kun!"

"It wasn't a coincidence. You followed us on purpose."

"Ugh."

Sabrina curtly cut Saki off, as she came waving to them.

"Stop that Sabrina. So, what's up Kinoshita? What's the rush?"

"I-I wasn't rushing. I wasn't rushing at all. I saw you by chance and by chance alone. My mother gave me some chores to do at the cathedral today, so I have to head over there. I remembered that your house was near the cathedral, Ootaki-kun! S-So, um, why don't we- why don't we walk together? How about it?"

...

.....

A long silence fell.

"What... did... you."

Kazuki was stuttering as he tried to ask.

"Huh? S-since it's on the way, I thought we might be able to walk together..."

Saki anxiously repeated herself as Kazuki stood there in shock.

Walking home together with a girl. It was a great privilege for a middle school boy like himself. And if the girl happened to be a girl that he had a crush on, it was an even greater privilege.

What happened? Kinoshita wasn't acting like herself today.

He was so happy, but he was getting too lucky.

Was he being repaid for all the trouble he went through with Sabrina and his parents?

Or was he about to use up all of his luck and die the day after?

While Kazuki was deep in thought, Saki nervously asked.

"Could it be... a bother for you?"

"Not at all!"

He objected at the speed of sound.

"It's not a bother at all. Alright, since you helped me a lot today with Sabrina, I'll even help you out with your work at the cathedral."

"Wow, thanks so much. It might require a lot of strength, will you be ok with that?"

"Sure, I'll be fine. Right Sabrina?"

"No, it's such a bother that it can't get any worse."

""Ehh?""

Without a second thought, Sabrina rejected the idea completely.

Kazuki and Saki voiced their grumble at the same time.

"I reject helping you out with the chore, and walking home as well. Let's go, Onii-chan."

She tugged at Kazuki's arm and tried to go.

"Huh? Huh? Wait, Sabrina."

"S-Sabrina, wait."

"I don't want to return home with this woman."

Sabrina tugged at Kazuki's arm even harder than before. It really looked like Sabrina disliked Saki.

"Why do you keep saying that? Why don't you get along with her?"

"That's right, that's right. Let's get along, Sabrina."

Saki smiled brightly at her. Seeing that, Sabrina tried to drill a hole in Saki with her defiant stare.

"Si."

And she nodded her head.

So she finally accepted Saki.

"I will take her down."

"What does that mean!?"

He couldn't understand her.

"I-I won't lose either."

"Kinoshita as well?"

And consequently, the three of them walked together with troubled hearts.

The three of them were walking along side by side. Sabrina was walking between Kazuki and Saki while clinging to Kazuki's arm.

"..."

"..."

"..."

The atmosphere got even heavier.

There were conversations, but they didn't last long enough to brighten up the mood.

...So what was with the mood?

Kazuki was feeling nervous for reasons he didn't understand. The inside of his mouth felt dry, he was sweating endlessly and his stomach started to ache.

Kazuki looked at Sabrina. Her expression had softened compared to before.

He looked at Saki. Her striking smile greeted him

There wasn't anything particularly strange.

Kazuki frowned and closed his eyes to think.

At that point, Sabrina and Saki's eyes met and sparks flew between them.

They were like a tiger and dragon.

Shiver.

"Whoa."

Kazuki, who just felt a chill down his spine checked his surroundings.

He didn't sense anything unusual.

Since the two girls were now facing away from each other, Kazuki didn't realize what was going on.

Hm, hmm.

Did I catch a cold because I had a bath before coming to school?

I don't think it's a cold because I don't have a fever.

Ring, ring. A bicycle approached them from the front.

Saki stepped back to let the bicycle pass and walked over to the other side of the street (where Sabrina wasn't standing).

After the bike passed, Sabrina stepped with perfect timing between Saki and Kazuki.

"..."

"..."

Shiver shiver. Kazuki felt the same chill running through his entire body.

Something wasn't right. But Kazuki didn't understand what.

"Hu hu... Sabrina really likes to follow Ootaki-kun around."

"Si. It's obvious, because I love my brother."

"Wow, it's quite bold of you to say love. But I guess it doesn't matter, because you guys are just siblings~. Si-bl-ings."

"..."

"..."

A smiling and inexpressive face. The two of them exchanged glares with each other.

Shiver shiver shiver. Kazuki has never felt as chilly as he did today.

Before Kazuki's mind got broken, the three of them arrived at the cathedral.

"Uhh, so we finally arrived... but huh? If my memory serves me right, isn't this cathedral empty...?"

"Yeah, but recently a nun was stationed here. She apparently asked for my mother's help when they met yesterday."

They walked through the main doors of the cathedral. Sabrina appeared to be dissatisfied, but she wordlessly followed Kazuki.

When the trio walked in the cathedral, they saw something they weren't expecting.

"Kyaa!"

Saki yelled out first.

To their surprise, near the entrance of the cathedral there was a collapsed woman in nun clothes.

This person must be the nun that moved in.

"A-are you alright!?"

Kazuki called out to her, but there was no response.

"Don't tell me she's dea-"

Twitch.

At that moment, before Saki could finish her sentence, the nun grabbed Saki's ankle and slowly raised her pale face. In some ways, she was more like a ghost under the willow tree⁵ instead of a nun.

"K-kyaa! It's a ghost-!"

Saki started stomping on the nun's head in a state of panic.

"Not bad, her kicks are suitable."

"Don't praise her Sabrina! Kinoshita! Look carefully, she's alive."

⁵ In Japanese mythology, the willow is associated with ghosts. It's said that a ghost will appear where a willow grows.

"Heh?"

With tears glistening in her eyes, Saki stopped her foot. With a barely audible voice, the nun spoke.

"I... I'm... so hungry."

Grooowl.

The sound of the nun's stomach rumbling echoed loudly.

"Whew— I'm alive!"

The nun instantly devoured a heap of food that Kazuki bought from a local convenience store. They didn't know about Sabrina, but Kazuki and Saki were stunned at the speed the food was eaten.

The nun's face regained its color and returned to a healthy pink tone. Her previous expression was nowhere to be found (including the marks from Saki's kicks).

Now she beamed with a smile and patted her full stomach.

"Ha-, thank you. Thanks to you, I feel alive again. I moved in just fine, but afterwards I was broke. I haven't eaten anything for a week."

"For a week!?"

"It's because of the bad economy. Ah ha ha, even the cathedrals have been affected."

The nun just laughed it off.

"That's right, I haven't introduced myself yet. My name is Izuna Tachibana and I have moved in to this cathedral. Please call me Izuna. Why are you visiting the cathedral?"

"That's—. "

"Ah, wait! I know even if you don't tell me!"

Izuna interrupted Saki who was about to talk and pointed her finger at Kazuki.

"You brought two girls with you! Hence, you're here to confess your bigamy!"

"That's not it!"

Kazuki rejected her.

"It's alright. I'm in a good mood since I'm full, so I'll forgive you in the Lord's name!"

"No, it shouldn't be forgiven, right!?"

A sense of déjà vu hit him.

The nun was very similar to his parents in how she refused to listen to what he was saying. He realized that the nun wasn't someone he should get acquainted with.

Saki took out a small envelope from her bag.

"My mother told me to deliver this to you."

"To me? ... Is this from Kinoshita-san?"

"Yes, I'm her daughter Saki."

"Heh, so she had a cute daughter like this. You see, I met your mother yesterday and she said she would give me some seeds if I wanted to do some gardening."

Inside the envelope were some seeds. Kazuki recalled what he heard from Ryouta, about Saki's mother being a gardening teacher.

"A flower filled cathedral does sound really ni-"

"With this, I can save on food costs!"

Izuna swallowed her saliva and completely ignored Kazuki.

Looking at the seeds carefully, he saw that they were all just vegetable or fruit seeds.

"Umm... Izuna-san, I'm sorry for stomping on you before."

"It's alright, it's alright! If you're a girl, you need to be at least that strong. And nice white!"

Izuna gave Saki a thumbs up. As soon as Izuna said that, Saki blushed frantically and held down her skirt. It seems like Izuna caught a glimpse of her panties while Saki was stepping on her.

Saki was being conscious of Kazuki behind her, and when their eyes met, Kazuki ended up blushing as well.

"Onii-chan."

Kazuki turned his head towards Sabrina.

"I'm embarrassed, but if you want to see..."

"It's ok!"

He hastily stopped Sabrina's hand which was about to lift up her skirt.

"Huh? Aren't you the little girl who was lost this morning?"

"Do you know Izuna-san, Sabrina?"

"Si. She told me the way to school."

"Ah, so that's what happened. Thank you for that Izuna-san."

"Heh, so you must be Kazuki-kun. Hmm, ho-ho..."

"Huh? How do you know my na-"

"Eh-it ☆"

Hug.

Izuna suddenly pulled Kazuki into her chest.

Kazuki's face was buried in her voluptuous valleys.



"... Uhp."

"Kyaaa!!"

Both Sabrina and Saki were petrified at the sight before their eyes.

W-wait. What just happened!?

They were soft... and warm...

-But he couldn't breathe.

Phew.

Kazuki escaped from Izuna's breasts while gasping for air. He was breathing heavily now and his face was dyed bright red with embarrassment.

"What are you doing, Izuna-san!?"

"No-, I just like you so..."

"What do you mean 'so'!? What are you saying!?"

"Then it's like this. Hmm, that... thing that they do in cathedrals... 'Baptism' was it?"

"It's completely different! And why are you talking in a questioning tone!?"

While Kazuki was complaining to Izuna, he heard a low muttering voice from behind him.

"I see.... So a new rival has arrived. Is that what an adults' charm is...? How terrifying.... I can't believe two different rivals - Sabrina and Izuna-san, appeared on the same day... I can't let my guard down from now on."

"Wait Kinoshita. What are you saying? Huh?"

Saki didn't even notice Kazuki waving his hand in front of her face. While he was looking at Saki with a strange expression, Sabrina pulled Kazuki's head towards her chest.

"No. You can't, Onii-chan. Onii-chan's are over here."

"What are you saying!?"

Kazuki told Sabrina off. Izuna who had been looking at them cracked up.

"... Pft, pha ha ha. You guys are quite funny. I like you guys. We live close to each other, so look after me from now on."

Izuna took Kazuki's hand and shook it by force.

"... In terms of food."

Izuna's eyes lit up and she poked her tongue out like a snake. It really seemed like she just wanted to leech off them.

Birds of a feather flock together, was it? It seemed like another troublesome person has joined Kazuki's side.

And so, Kazuki was sucked into the swamp of anomalies again.

Capitolo. 3 A Visitor From Italy

1

During lesson 1.

「Second year class 6 Kazuki Outaki-kun. Please come to the student guidance room.」

During lesson 2

「Second year class 6 Kazuki Outaki-kun. Please come to the student guidance room immediately.」

During lesson 3.

「Second year class 6 Kazuki Outaki-kun. Please come to the student guidance room as soon as you can.」

During lesson 4.

「Second year class 6 Kazuki Outaki-kun. Please come to the student guidance room at the speed of light— kyaaaa.」

——.

————.

And now, it was after school.

"I'm sorry for the trouble."

Kazuki bowed his head and closed the students guidance room's door,

"Ha..."

He sighed so deeply it felt like ectoplasm would leak out of his body.

Tug tug. There was someone tugging at Kazuki's uniform sleeve.

"Onii-chan, what's the matter?"

She had clear white skin with blond twin tails.

"If something is troubling you, then I will help."

The girl who was wearing the same school uniform as Kazuki was holding a briefcase that didn't suit her.

She was the source of his troubles: Sabrina.

"...?"

It looked like she couldn't understand that she *was* the source. She looked back at Kazuki's pleading facial expression, puzzled.

He thought it would only be for a day; however, thanks to his parents, Sabrina had already been enrolled in the school and was now in attendance.

Sabrina, who just entered first year, attracted a lot of the boys' attention and hearts with her cute appearance. She was even well received by the girls for defeating the PE teacher Kitajawa. Obviously, she didn't care at all about the attention. She acted just like before; not paying attention to anyone but Kazuki.

Even though Sabrina was warmly received by the students, due to her severe lack of common sense, she was continuously in trouble. Sabrina wasn't an easy student for the teachers to deal with.

The school had taken emergency measures and placed Sabrina in Kazuki's class for self-studies, because she would only listen to him. She was so behind on her Japanese, English, and mathematics that she was given worksheets to do.

However, she wasn't completely quiet. She caused all sorts of trouble, like throwing balls like a cannon in PE class, throwing a knife at a classmate who approached her from behind during cooking class, and biting Saki's hand while she was trying to teach her.

Because of her behavior, Kazuki and Sabrina have become regulars at the Student Guidance Room.

Even today, the two of them were lectured until school closed (Sabrina was expressionless as usual, so she didn't seem to mind).

"They called us here again. But I didn't want to trouble you..."

Sabrina looked down as she weakly grabbed Kazuki's sleeve. She usually didn't care what other people thought of her, but it looked like she didn't want Kazuki to dislike her.

Prior to living in Kazuki's house, Sabrina was training to become an assassin, and was forbidden from leaving.

It wasn't surprising to see her struggling to adapt to her new environment. Sabrina was doing her best, so it was impossible for Kazuki to be angry at her.

"It's ok, you can adapt bit by bit."

When he patted her head, her expression lit up slightly. Sabrina was able to understand if Kazuki explained it properly. Sabrina would be able to fit in and get accustomed to her life here someday.

However;

"Si, today I learned that you are not allowed to make a dry ice bomb in the school's home economics room."

"Uuu... I see. You'll get used to it."

But that "someday" seemed so far away.

2

On their way back from school, the siblings headed towards the shopping district.

Since it was nearly dinner time, a lot of people were on the streets. The street was rowdy with shopkeepers doing cooking demonstrations and holding various other events to attract customers. The smell of delicious food was in the air.

"Sabrina."

"Si?"

When Kazuki said her name, Sabrina who was standing still turned around.

"Are you alright? Did anything happen? You seem to be really out of it today."

"No."

"Then is there anything that you want to eat? I'm still undecided on what to have for dinner."

"I don't mind what we have, as long as I'm with you, Onii-chan."

"I'm really happy to hear that, but.... I wonder what we should have for dinner."

Saying "hmm," Kazuki thought about what he should cook.

"He—y, Kazuki."

Someone called out to Kazuki. Across the road at a different shop, Kazuki's classmate Ryouta poked his head out.

"Oh, it's you Ryouta. Looking after the shop?"

"Something like that. They caught me, on my day off from my clubs, too."

The shop 「Miyamoto Butchers」 was run by Ryouta's parents. They were famous for their cheap and delicious meat.

"I'm bored, so just buy something from us."

"Wait, that's completely unrelated. But hmm, meat huh..."

"Take a look, this is a really good cut of meat. Right now..."

Peek. From behind Kazuki's back, Sabrina peeked out. Ryouta, who was just about to say the price, had a weak spot for cute girls and quickly turned his eyes away.

"—It's free! Take it, you thieves!"

"Free!? But this looks pretty expensive, is this okay?"

"Don't sweat the small stuff, it's alright. Anyways, these expensive cuts don't get sold unless it's a special occasion. Moreover, my dad only displayed these for his own satisfaction. Also, the meat probably wants to be eaten by Sabrina. Think of this as my present to Sabrina. Please accept it."

Sabrina's eyes lit up with a shine.

Ryouta was beaming at Sabrina when suddenly; a thick and hairy arm appeared behind him and held him in a headlock.

"Kugh, father! Ahhhhhhhh."

And just like a vise, Ryouta's head started to get crushed.

Ryouta's face changed colors like the traffic lights. Kazuki quickly realized what was going on.

"Ah, hello Mr. Miyamoto."

He had forgotten to greet the shop owner when he first came in. Ryouta's father raised his hand in a "hey" gesture.

"That's not what you should be saying! Save— ughh."

Ryouta's father held his son in a headlock and started to tighten it mercilessly.

"Uh, I'm sorry about that. I wasn't thinking of taking it for free anyway..."

Kazuki gently tried to refuse, but Ryouta's father told him "no" with his hands. With a series of elaborate gestures, Ryouta's father said a man does not go back on his word.

Kazuki refused again and again, but in the end he wasn't able to win against Ryouta's father.

After being pressured, Kazuki took the high class meat.

"Then I'll gratefully take this, thank you very much. Sabrina, you should say thank you as well."

When Kazuki urged her, Sabrina also bowed her head in thanks.

"Eh heh heh. It's alright. Anyway, come visit us again. Next time we'll give you even more service than today. But father, why are you dragging me inside the shop... whoa—aaaaaa."

The desperate cry for help from his friend could be heard even outside the shop, but Kazuki decided it was just his imagination.

Sabrina walked around Kazuki and stood in front of him.

"Onii-chan, who was that person? He seems to know me."

"..."

Ryouta... you're such a pitiful guy.

With that thought, he and Sabrina left the Miyamoto Butchers.

"Hey Sabrina, what should I cook with this meat?"

"Yakiniku¹ of course! We've done it daddy! It's a homerun for tonight!"

Someone jumped on his back from behind. Something bouncy and soft wrapped around his head. Kazuki jumped forward to see who it was.

"I-Izuna-san!?"

The thing wrapped around his head were a pair of breasts. When he realized this, Kazuki blushed furiously.

"Hey Kazuki-kun. Ah, by the way Sabrina, when I say 'It's a homerun for tonight'...."

"Who—ah. Don't teach her anything funny please!"

Kazuki spoke loudly enough to cancel out Izuna's voice.

Izuna was a poor nun who put on an innocent face while hugging Kazuki or while committing sexual harassment (physically or mentally).

She had moved into a cathedral near Kazuki's house and visited his house frequently for food.

¹ Yakiniku - Literally "grilled meat."

"Hello."

From behind Izuna's back, a girl wearing the same school uniform as Kazuki appeared shyly.

It was Saki Kinoshita - Kazuki's classmate, who was popular because of her passion for looking after people and because she didn't discriminate between males and females. Kazuki actually had feelings for her.

"You're coming back from school quite late today. ...Oh, were you grocery shopping?"

"Y-yeah. I was..."

Ah... Kinoshita was really pretty.

While the two of them were talking about dinner, Kazuki imagined Saki in an apron. It really suited her.

It looked too good... if only he could see it in real life.

But what if Kinoshita's cooking didn't taste good? No, there's no way that's possible.

For some reason, he accepted it to some extent.

Whenever Saki was near him, Kazuki always got nervous. To avoid being found out, he started a conversation.

"W-what are you doing here Kinoshita, Izuna-san? I-it's a strange pair. Did you have something to do?"

"Yeah. I went to Izuna-san's cathedral and helped her plant the seeds. I've been visiting a lot these days to nurture them."

Saying "Take a look," Saki showed him the bucket that she held in her hands.

Inside, there were a pair of work gloves, various shovels, a plant nutrient package and various other things.

Gardening was Saki's hobby, which she inherited from her mother (who is a gardening teacher).

"I-I see. It must be hard work."

"Not at all. The cathedral has a large yard, so it's rewarding to work with it. It's quite fun."

From Saki's face, a smile bloomed.

Kazuki was able to talk to Saki because he stayed after school thanks to Sabrina. With that, it felt like he had been repaid for his effort and the trouble he went through today.

"Did the seeds you planted sprout already?"

"They did sprout... but before they grew any larger, Izuna-san ate them."

"Nya ha ha. I was hungry, you see."

"Are you a wild beast that attacks agriculture?!"

Kazuki yelled at Izuna who was scratching her head in embarrassment.

"Even if you're hungry, you shouldn't eat seedlings! You didn't need to eat them anyway! What happened to *that*?"

"That?"

"You won the raffle at the store three days ago."

Actually, while he was passing through the shopping district a few days ago, Kazuki saw Izuna winning the third prize - 10kg of rice. Kazuki remembered it clearly because Izuna started squealing and jumped on Kazuki out of excitement.

"Ah- you mean *that*. I ate it all bit by bit... in 1 day."

"No, that can't be right, how much do you eat in one day!? You're a religious leader, right? Have some self-control!"

It seemed like poverty made her stomach grow to suit her irregular lifestyle.

Shiver.

While he was occupied with Izuna, Kazuki noticed an unusual atmosphere. It was coming from Sabrina and Saki who were looking... no, to be precise, who were glaring at each other.

Sparks flew between them, but Kazuki only felt the chilly atmosphere, not the reason for it.

"Uuu..."

"... (*Stare*)."

"Did something happen between you two?"

"Uuu— oh, it's nothing Outaki-kun."

"Si. No problem."

Squish. Sabrina's breasts pressed onto him.

"Ah!"

Saki widened her eyes with and let out a small yelp.

"W-what? What did I do?"

"N- no, it's not like that. It's nothing. Anyways, Outaki-kun and Sabrina are always together, aren't you?"

"Si. Of course."

"Since you're just siblings."

"..."

As if she was trying to cut off Sabrina, Saki smiled brightly at her. However, Sabrina wasn't intimidated. Although she was expressionless, her eyes gave off a sense of leisure.

"Si. We're just siblings. Non blood-related siblings, at that."

"Eeep."

Being countered by Sabrina, Saki was taken aback so much that her eyes started tearing up.

"We sometimes sleep together."

Sabrina subtly added something that was a huge deal.

"Ehh-!?"

"Wait– Sabrina."

The Omertà that he formed with Sabrina had extended into their everyday life. The 7th rule was: 「Sabrina can sleep with Kazuki when there is a thunderstorm or when she has a nightmare and can't sleep by herself.」

"You're... lying!?"

Saki lost the strength in her legs and kneeled.

"K-Kinoshita, i-it's not like that! We did sleep together, but there was a good reason for it. And like I said before, she's just my sister, so I wouldn't do anything strange to her!"

"...I can't believe... that the two of you have developed your relationship like this... at this rate... no, I can't give up.... No, Saki! Your cousin Hiroyuki-kun's manga had that line 'It's game over the instant you give up.'"

"So just listen to me–"

Saki was in a monologue with herself, so Kazuki's words didn't reach her.

Izuna crouched down and gently wrapped her hands around Saki and Kazuki's shoulders.

"You two, in the bible, there is this saying... 'be fruitful and multiply.' I'm sure bigamy is allowed."

"Izuna-san should quit being a nun!"

She held her thumb up, but she held it in a different way. It was slightly indecent.

After separating from Saki and Izuna, the siblings left the shopping district and were walking home. It was just over 6 o'clock and there was no-one on the streets. The evenly spaced out street lamps were useless, but they lit up the path. Every now and then, the street lamps flickered, adding to the gloominess of the lonely street.

"Ha... I really need to clear up the misunderstanding sometime."

Being misunderstood by the girl he liked was so cruel. Kazuki was still shocked and he was wobbling as he walked, but abruptly Sabrina stopped walking.

She stood under the street lamp.

"... What's wrong?"

"What do you want from us?"

"Eh? What do y—"

Sabrina was looking at Kazuki... no, she wasn't looking at him, she was speaking to what looked like an empty space.

Her voice sounded stiff and nervous.

Now that he thought about, Sabrina had been acting strange; looking behind her once in a while and not paying attention to Kazuki.

Kazuki looked around him, but he couldn't spot anyone.

"Sabrina, what's going on—"

The flickering street lamp turned off.

Push.

Sabrina gently pushed Kazuki. He was pushed back about the distance of a single footstep.

Then a shadow passed between them, followed by the sound of something hard breaking.

"Huh?"

Kazuki was puzzled. He looked down at his feet.

The asphalt was cracked, and next to the crack there was a shadow from a kneeling human.

It was this person who made the crack in the street.

The shadow threw a punch straight away.

It was fast.

Kazuki couldn't respond to the punch at all.

"Ugh!"

He didn't even have a chance to blink.

Slowly, as if he was watching in slow motion, the punch headed straight towards Kazuki.

However.

Before the punch came into contact with him, Sabrina swung her briefcase, or her 'toolbox', at the shadow.

"—!"

The shadow leapt backwards. But as it did, it threw something at them.

Whatever it was flashed before Kazuki's eyes.

At the same time, his view was covered by something.

It was Sabrina who swung her briefcase in front of his face.

With the sound of a metal clashing, a slim knife fell to the ground.

While Sabrina was blocking the knife, the shadow leapt up and prepared its next attack.

The shadow was only aiming for Kazuki.

Shortening the distance, the shadow launched a spin kick at him.

Sabrina blocked the kick and countered by swinging her briefcase.

Clang.

The sound of metal on metal rang out again while sparks flew. The shadow must have installed metal plates on its shoes.

Sabrina and her opponent's strength were almost equal... no, the opponent was slightly stronger.

Sabrina was flung and lost her balance slightly.

The shadow didn't miss the opportunity, and swung its fist once more at Kazuki.

Sabrina let go of her briefcase (which was the reason for her imbalance) and pushed Kazuki away from the punch.

Whoosh!

The punch nearly scratched Kazuki's cheek.

With her free hand, Sabrina launched a backhand at the shadow.

"Tsk."

The shadow clicked its tongue and crouched down. At the same time, it performed a low kick which was like the scythe of a grim reaper at Sabrina.

Predicting the low kick, Sabrina jumped about 20cms off the ground.

The kick cut through the empty space.

Both their attack and defense were flawless.

Stepping away from the shadow, Sabrina prepared herself and launched a chop at the shadow. The shadow arched its back to avoid it. It grabbed Sabrina's hand that was attacking and threw her away.

As Sabrina was sent flying, she spun in midair and landed closer to the shadow than she was before.

The shadow responded to that.

"... Uuu."

"Ha!"

Flash.

They passed each other. But neither of them received any damage.

Turning back, both Sabrina and the shadow removed a pistol from their sleeves, instantly taking aim at each other.

The guns were aimed at each other simultaneously.

The two of them stopped moving.

"..."

"..."

The atmosphere froze with the pair eyeing each other.

Finally, Kazuki had a chance to come back to his senses.

Huh? Huh? What the hell's going on?

Was it aiming for me!?

I haven't got a clue as to what's going on!

While Kazuki was trying to comprehend the situation, the street lamp turned back on. The identity of the shadow was revealed by its light.

She was wearing a tight black suit that blended into darkness. She had semi-long silver hair that reflected the lamp's light and a pair of bright grey eyes that looked cool.

She was wearing adult like clothes, but she barely looked over 20 years old.

"What are you doing, Sofia²?"

"Sofia...? Sabrina, do you know her?"

"Si. She was in charge of my education back in Italy."

Sabrina's education?

As Sabrina looked at Sofia, Kazuki could see the pain on her face. It was an expression he had never seen her make before.

"That's what I should be asking you, Sabrina."

Sofia spoke with an elegant voice. She stopped pointing the gun and glared at Kazuki.

"I was just trying to remove the evil person who's seducing you."

"Seduce!? I seduced Sabrina!? What are you saying!?"

"Silence, you dirty person. You don't have the right to retort. How dare you kidnap my lovely Sabrina?"

"Kidnap!? It's a misunderstanding!"

While Kazuki was getting grilled by Sofia, whose eyes were threatening enough to kill, Sabrina extended her help.

"No. I wasn't kidnapped."

Sofia, who had been interrogating Kazuki at a frightening speed, stopped talking upon hearing her words.

"If you didn't get kidnapped... you were abducted?"

² The name "Sofia" is the Italian equivalent of Sophia.

"No."

"Were you taken by force?"

"No."

"Did they lure you with candy?"

"No."

"You're just asking if she was kidnapped!"

"You shut up. Then Sabrina, are you telling the truth?"

"Si."

Sofia crossed her arms and thought for a bit.

"...Why don't you tell me in detail."

3

The group was now in the living room of Kazuki's house. Kazuki and Sabrina sat on one side of the table, while Sofia sat on the other. Sabrina was clinging to Kazuki as usual.

Kazuki explained to Sofia how Sabrina came to his household. Sofia continuously checked with Sabrina for confirmation.

"So, you really didn't get kidnapped?"

"No."

After repeating the question multiple times, Sofia believed them for now.

"...I heard that Sabrina was abducted, but it seems like the information was wrong. If Sabrina hadn't been there, I would've killed you for no reason."

"No, no! I don't want to be killed for no reason!"

"Do you have a complaint?"

Flinch.

"No, I'm glad that the misunderstanding was cleared up..."

He stood up to complain, but when Sofia glared at him, he quietly sat back down.

Sofia drank the coffee that Kazuki brought out.

"So, how is it?"

She asked while biting onto the cup.

"Eh?"

Kazuki didn't know what she meant. Sofia quietly asked the puzzled Kazuki.

"I understand that you didn't kidnap her, but I want to complain about you stealing my one and only Sabrina, who is only mine, and doing indecent things to her. "

"What? Indecent acts—!? I-I-I-I don't! Moreover, it's been bothering me for a while that you've been saying 'my lovely' and 'only mine' while talking about Sabrina!"

"Oh, so what? My Japanese is perfect. I was speaking my thoughts honestly."

"But, both of you are females..."

"Gender does not matter when it comes to love. My love for her is genuine and platonic."

While saying that, with a fluid motion, she ran her fingers through her hair.

"As an educator, Sofia is slightly obsessed with her duties."

Kazuki thought that was an understatement, but didn't say anything to Sabrina. In this world, some things are better left unsaid.

"Anyway, did you really not do anything indecent to Sabrina?"

"I won't forgive you if you lie," was the expression Sofia had on her face.

"I-I haven't!"

Sofia narrowed her eyes and glared at Kazuki.

"Like looking at her naked body?"

"... Ha ha, ha."

"Or going in the bath together?"

"... N-no way."

"Or maybe sleeping under the same quilt?"

"..."

"Or stealing Sabrina's underwear?"

"I didn't go that far! ...Ah."

He dug his own grave. Kazuki started sweating like a waterfall.

"..."

Ka chunk.

"Whoa—! Please don't pull out your gun like it's nothing!"

"... Underwear. Umm, Onii-chan, if you're interested... I wouldn't really min—upp."

"Just be quiet and don't make the situation worse!"

Kazuki hurriedly blocked Sabrina's mouth with his hand.

"I understand. As expected, you used this situation to your advantage and did such things to Sabrina... and to release your lust, you went to Sabrina every night and—pfft."

Sofia started to get a nose bleed. She held a handkerchief in her hand and tried to stop it.

"... I got too excited thinking about it."

What happened to her pure and platonic love?

"Got any complaints?"

"... No."

Facing Sofia's menacing glare, Kazuki looked away.

"A-anyhow, those things happened, but they couldn't be helped! What Sofia-san is imagining didn't happen at all, so please don't be so concerned!"

Sofia looked at Kazuki like a predator looking at prey, but she then sighed loudly.

"Well, I guess it'll be fine. My introduction is a little bit late, but my name is Sofia Olivia. I am the capo³ of the soldiers in the Jevini Family, and I'm in charge of Sabrina's education and training."

"Soldiers? Capo?"

"Don't you know anything about the mafia?"

She scrunched her eyebrows at Kazuki, who had a question mark hovering above his head.

"Listen carefully. The mafia has the following hierarchy in descending order: the boss, underboss, consigliere and the soldier. Mafia is a word to describe this group and other secret organizations that follow a similar rank pyramid. Mafia groups are referred to as a 'Family'. Each Family has their own unique 'Code of Submission' and 'Code of Silence' (Omertà), and that's what keeps the mafia families so closely bonded to each other."

"Right... I see. So there are a lot of different types of mafia. Since Sofia-san is a soldier in the hierarchy..."

"Got something to say about that?"

Sofia pointed the gun at him.

"I don't! I told you to put that away!"

³ Capo - A captain in the Mafia. Usually one of several Caporegime, they lead a group of soldiers.

"Hmph, I'll move up soon. I can't stay still in my current ranking for long."

She muttered to herself and placed her gun back.

"Ah, my name is—"

"I know, you're Kazuki Outaki."

"Eh? How did you know?"

"I looked into it. Well, as expected, there wasn't that much information."

Sofia cleared her throat in dissatisfaction.

She looked into it? As expected? Kazuki wanted to know.

"Thank you again, for looking after Sabrina. Son of the 'Happy Crown'."

"Pardon? Happy... what?"

"'The One who Ridicules Death'. I'm talking about your parents. They're quite famous in the underworld."

"Famous!? My parents are!?"

"There isn't a single person in our world that doesn't fear the name 'Happy Crown'. They are famous for destroying a gang just for bumping into them on the street, or for making the boss of a Family kneel to them while skydiving 2000 meters off the ground, or even for making every single cat in Italy follow them."

"Wait, what was the last one just now!?"

"Well, I wouldn't want to go against them either."

He was completely ignored.

How saddening... but before that, his parents.

Kazuki has always thought it was very suspicious for his parents to be treasure hunters, but it seemed like his parents were big shots in the underworld. The couple spreads trouble, not only for their son, but across the globe as well.

Kazuki felt like he should apologize for his parents' actions.

"But aren't you the successor of your parents and the mafia? How come you don't know anything about them?"

"I'm just a normal civilian!"

At Kazuki's outburst, Sofia hung her mouth wide open.

"You're joking?"

"I'm serious!"

Kazuki yelled out.

"Do you even know how much I prepared when I heard that Sabrina was kidnapped?!"

"Unfortunately, I'm just a normal person. I don't intend to succeed them."

Kazuki curtly replied. Sofia could only look at Kazuki blankly.

"Right, just a civilian..."

Sofia raised her shoulders like she just lost interest and turned her gaze back to Sabrina.

"Sabrina, pack your bags. We're going back to Italy."

"Huh, what are you..."

Going back to Italy?

Even though she just said something very important, Sofia put on a relaxed face. As Kazuki sat there astonished, Sabrina asked:

"What's going on?"

"The boss's will has been found. To summarize, he wrote that he's giving 'everything' to you."

"Everything...? Does he mean his wealth?"

Not understanding just how much 'everything' was, Kazuki asked.

"That's not all. As I said, he's giving her 'everything'. To be precise, Sabrina is now the boss of the Jevini Family."

"Boss!? Sabrina is!?"

"Sabrina is a hidden child that only a few people know about even in the family, so some of the members won't accept that she's becoming the boss. Without a boss, other mafia families will attack us, so our underboss has been working hard to protect Sabrina. Now, he sent me over to collect Sabrina."

After saying that, she smiled at Sabrina.

As if she was looking at her lovable little sister.

"Sabrina, you've always been treated as an outcast and hidden child, but now, you're the boss of the Jevini Family. So, you don't need to stay here any longer."

Sofia looked happy, like it was her own business. Sabrina looked at her wordlessly.

Kazuki thought about it...

Sabrina will receive 'everything' from the dead boss.

However, Sabrina's life will be in danger because of the current family members and the other families.

But was there a way for Sabrina not to go back to Italy...?

— That's' right.

He reflected on the past few days.

This situation couldn't last forever, but for it to end so abruptly...

But this couldn't... be... helped... right?

I had to let her go.

I had to, but...

Inside Kazuki's mind, there were fog like thoughts deterring his natural thought process.

"Pack your bags right now. Your stuff is upstai..."

"No."

Sabrina briskly cut Sofia off.

Her answer was negative.

"Sabrina?"

Sabrina pulled Kazuki's sleeve.

"I won't go back."

She curtly replied.

"Wha—"

Sofia covered her mouth in shock.

"Sabrina? Do you even know what you're saying?"

She couldn't hide her shock. It wasn't surprising, because Kazuki was in the same.

"Si. I don't need something like inheritance. I'm not interested in becoming the boss, either. Please follow the will for everything else."

"... Sabrina, it's not something that can be decided so simply. It doesn't work like that."

"No, I won't go back. I'm staying here."

"Why are you so attached to a place like this when you could go anywhere you wanted, and hold the entire world in your hands?"

"I don't need anything."

"Are you serious?"

"Si."

She wasn't kidding, she really planned to remain here. Sofia looked at Sabrina's hand that was holding onto Kazuki's sleeves. She looked up to glare at Kazuki. Kazuki felt a chill run through his entire body.

Without even trying to hide her rage, Sofia asked Sabrina.

"What do you plan to do with the family members? They're all waiting for you."

"I don't really care. It's bothersome for me to even have them."

The atmosphere became colder as Sofia got angrier.

Sofia lowered her tone.

"Even when this boy will be in danger if you stay any longer?"

"... Si. I'll protect him then."

"Sabrina!"

Sofia raised her voice. Sabrina didn't even flinch at her. But she held Kazuki's sleeves even tighter.

"U-umm—."

Sofia fiercely looked at Kazuki as he interrupted their talk. Kazuki shrank like a frog being glared at by a snake.

"... Let's go back together."

"No."

"I see... you don't want to go back. Then, I've got my own methods as well."

Sabrina and Sofia took out their guns. The situation was about to explode.

Ding dong.

At that moment, the doorbell rang.

"..."

"..."

Sofia sighed and the heavy atmosphere in the room lifted.

Kazuki realized that he forgot to breathe.

"... We were interrupted, so I'll leave for today. Sabrina, think hard about who and what you are."

Sabrina didn't reply. Without moving, she was on her guard against Sofia.

Kazuki went to see Sofia off. She appeared to be slightly lonely.

When he opened the door, there was Saki and Izuna on the porch. They must have been the ones that rang the door bell just now.

"I've felt this for a while... but now, I'm certain."

As Sofia put on her shoes, she looked at Kazuki.

"I don't like you."

"Ehh?"

Sofia said something like that as if it were nothing, again.

"It means that I want to strangle you to death."

"Isn't that even worse than before!?"

"Oh, you heard that earlier? You are really fast witted."

"Now what are you saying..."

He really couldn't think of anything else to say. Sofia pointed her finger at Kazuki.

And she declared.

"You're taking advantage of my Sabrina! That's why you're the enemy!"

"Uuu... why is it like that..."

"Well, watch your back at night."

Sofia smiled evilly. She didn't appear to be joking.

"And one more thing..."

She leaned towards Kazuki's ear.

He felt her breath on his skin. His heart started to beat faster, thinking that she was about to kiss him.

Whooo. Her fresh breath that smelled like Eau de Cologne tickled his nose.

"You and Sabrina live in different worlds. It won't turn out well in the end."

Sofia whispered that in his ear.

In a cold and frightening voice.

She turned away and passed Saki and Izuna while saying "excuse me."

Sofia didn't do anything to Kazuki; however, he felt as if Sofia had been gripping his heart. That feeling wouldn't stop as he clenched his chest with his sweaty hand.

"Oh, there was a guest? Did we disturb you?"

"No.... Not really... did you need something?"

"I thought Kazuki-kun might be troubled. So I came here to counsel you."

"Huh?"

Izuna said something completely unexpected.

Could she have overheard his conversation with Sofia?

Kazuki thought that discussing his situation with Izuna might be helpful.



However, his expectations went up in flames.

"'Cause you know, you have so much meat, you two can't possibly eat it all. So, I came here to help you out."

Izuna took out a pair of chopsticks and a bowl from the sleeves of her habit⁴.

He completely misunderstood.

Saki was in shock, she didn't know what to do as she stood next to the smiling nun.

"W-wait Izuna-san! You told me that Kazuki-kun invited you! "

"I said that it would be nice IF he invited me, but Saki agreed to it immediately. I couldn't bear to tell you after seeing you get excited like that. Te-hee ☆"

"Ehh—hh!?"

Saki crouched down with her hands covering her ears and screamed. Kazuki noticed that Saki wasn't in her school uniform like the time he met her at the shopping district. She was wearing a casual blouse with a tiered skirt, which went well with her gentle personality. This was his first time seeing her in casual clothes and it was spectacular. Without thinking, Kazuki thanked the gods for this opportunity.

"It's ok Saki. There's this saying in the bible. 'There is nothing to be afraid of. Just have faith.'"

"This isn't the time for that! We just came here uninvited! Sorry, Outaki-kun. I'll go back home—."

"No!"

Kazuki hurriedly stopped Saki as she was about to leave. Although the extra baggage was there, this was a once in a life time opportunity for him. He couldn't let this go.

"Well, it's a bit messy, but come in— huh, what!"

⁴ Habit - The robes nuns wear, including the nifty nun hat.

While he was ushering them in, he saw Sabrina, who should've been in the living room, standing there.

Sabrina didn't give off the same tense atmosphere she did when Sofia was here.

... In fact, it was worse.

"Onii-chan, why are we having dinner with those two?"

"Well, Izuna barged into our house."

"But I just saw you welcoming them in."

"Umm... well we can't eat all that meat by ourselves. After all, we only got it thanks to Ryouta's sacri... no, his generosity. So, let's share some with these two as well. Ok?"

"..."

"Food tastes better when eaten with friends, right?"

"..."

"I like little sisters who have a big and kind heart."

"...Uuu."

Hug. Sabrina hugged him.

"Sabrina?"

"Si. I want to be a little sister who lives up to your expectations. So the four of us can eat together. I received a mental shock from it just now; so, I want to recover from the shock. Please give me some time."

"J- just for reference, how long do you need?"

"I need about 3 hours."

"That's too long! Dinner time will be over by then!"

In the end, the four of them had dinner together. With the meat, Kazuki granted Izuna's wish and cooked yakiniku. With Sabrina recovering from her shock while holding on to Kazuki, he brought the hot plate out from the kitchen.

When he placed the slices of meat on the heated plate, the appetizing sound and the smell of meat filled the room. This meat really was worthy of being called the best cut by the butchers.

"Delicious. It's gotta be yakiniku! Oh, I found a nice piece of cooked meat!"

"... Uuu, Izuna, that's a piece that I cooked so I can give it to my brother. Return it right now."

"Sabrina, I don't mind. Whoa, please don't open your mouth while you're chewing Izuna-san!"

"Uh- umm, Outaki-kun, if you want, you can have this pie— ouch."

"Whoa—. What are you doing Sabrina!"

"Si. I just saw some delicious wings."

"There were none! You shouldn't bite other people!"

"Ah, this meat's mine as well!"

"Kyaa, Izuna-san, that was mine!"

The kitchen table was noisy. Sabrina didn't get angry as much as usual, and Saki and Izuna looked happy.

Kazuki was laughing as well.

— You and Sabrina live in different worlds. It won't turn out well in the end.

But the words Sofia spoke to him before she left were circulating in Kazuki's head.

Capitolo. 4 Reality

1

Sofia firmly stood on a long and silky carpet.

It was a newly built hotel, one bus stop away from the Kazuki household. She was in the suite on the highest floor.

In front of her was a man sitting on a luxurious sofa. He appeared to be in his late 20s, but had all white hair and was wearing a white suit.

He was the second in command of the Jevini Family - Juan the underboss.

Sofia had been reporting Sabrina's case to him; however, it was impossible to tell if Juan was listening to her while he filed his nails.

After filing his pinkie, he blew at it and finally opened his mouth to talk.

"So, you couldn't bring Sabrina back?"

"No, to be precise, I didn't bring her back. There was an error in the information that I received. Sabrina hadn't been forcefully taken away, she was there under her own will. She even said with her own mouth that she wanted to remain there."

"So?"

"I've returned to hear your opinion on the matter, underboss."

Juan glared at Sofia like a predator eyeing his prey, until he returned his gaze back to his nails.

"I ordered you to bring back Sabrina, but you couldn't. You've failed your mission."

"That's... true."

When you look at the outcome, Sofia failed. She didn't have anything to say for herself.

"... But please give me some time. I will persuade her for sure."

Sofia strongly looked at the sofa. In response, Juan flexed his shoulders.

"It seems like Sabrina doesn't want to return. She is staying in the 'Happy Crown' household, isn't she? If it were me, I wouldn't stay there even if I was asked. Isn't it possible that the boy is blackmailing Sabrina? They might even be doing drugs."

Sofia was surprised. Noticing that, Juan stopped filing his nails.

"The boy is the son of 'Happy Crown,' isn't he? It's quite possible. Drugs, blackmail, brainwashing... the body as well as the mind, you see."

He smiled slightly.

This person was rotten to the core. He enjoyed watching other people in distress; watching them with glee and a shady look.

He saw things... he wasn't supposed to see.

But what Juan said was certainly convincing.

Sabrina was never a girl who expressed herself honestly...

But to think she actually spoke her mind.

Sofia was hesitant. What did she need to do?

Then Juan spoke to her as if to give her one last push.

"Well, we don't have time to leisurely talk it over with her. At this rate, not only will the family fall into trouble, she will as well. It wouldn't be strange if an organization attacks us now. I will give you one more chance, you must bring back Sabrina this time."

"But..."

"What is it? I think I just gave you an order, though?"

In the mafia world, refusing an order from a senior was not permitted.

Sofia could only shut her mouth in response.

She bowed her head and exited the room.

After leaving the suite, Sofia stiffly walked along the luxurious hallway. She entered the elevator to get to the floor her room was on.

There were no other people in the elevator.

The door slowly shut and the number indicating the current floor descended one by one.

Slam!

Sofia slammed her fist on the wall. Her eyes were filled with rage.

"That parachute¹ bastard. I'll rip out his precious nails and pour molten steel on them."

Her anger erupted.

Was she angry because of how cocky Juan was acting now that the boss was gone?

Was she angry at the boy named Kazuki who was with Sabrina?

Or was she angry at the fact that Sabrina rejected her for the first time?

Sofia didn't know where her anger came from.

— "The boy is the son of 'Happy Crown,' isn't he? It's quite possible. Drugs, blackmail, brainwashing... the body as well as the mind, you see."

Slam!

Remembering what Juan had said to her, Sofia slammed her fist against the wall again.

There were a few things that Sofia couldn't accept; however, Sofia understood that she had to bring back Sabrina at all costs.

She remembered what Sabrina said.

¹ Parachute - Slang meaning that one uses the influence of his/her parents to obtain influence or preferential treatment.

— "I won't go back."

She had never seen Sabrina behave like that.

Sabrina...

The boss gave you everything.

You're no longer a "hidden child."

You don't have to live like that anymore.

Why won't you come back?

Is it because you want to stay with that boy?

Sofia didn't know much... but.

"I have to carry out my mission... for the family, for myself, and for Sabrina as well. I will make you return with me... even if I have to get violent."

As soon as she finished thinking, the elevator door opened.

2

Today's lesson had just finished.

"Oh, a text."

As Kazuki headed towards the shoe lockers, the phone inside his pocket vibrated. Sabrina sent him the text.

"I'll be waiting for you at the front gate," was the short message from her.

"I'm coming now."

As Kazuki sent his reply, someone tapped on his shoulder from behind.

"See you later Kazuki."

"Huh? You're going home early today, Ryouta. You usually stay behind and play after school. Have you finally realized that your grades are in danger?"

The students in his school were now preparing for their midterm exams.

During preparation, all extracurricular activities (like clubs) were on break.

However; just because the clubs were on break, didn't mean the students actually studied.

"Are you an idiot? The clubs are on break, so why would we waste our time studying? I'm going out to play with my fellow baseball club members."

There were students like Ryouta who preferred to mess around.

"Anyways, most of the teachers are at a teachers' conference, so the school closes at 5 o'clock."

"Ah, they mentioned that in the homeroom today."

"There aren't many teachers around, so now is the time to run amok! Tonight is karaoke! I'll sing my heart out~."

"...That's great and all, but will you be ok with the tests next week?"

"I'm living in the moment! I won't regret anything!"

However, Kazuki knew that Ryouta would regret it on test day. He had seen it happen countless times.

Since the two of them were in the same class, they walked to the shoe lockers together. Kazuki could only look at his carefree friend Ryouta's back as he walked away.

Kazuki reached into his shoe rack.

"Huh?"

When he reached into his assigned shoe locker as usual, something was on top of his shoes.

"... What's this?"

Paper?

It was a pink piece of paper, slightly bigger than the size of his hand.

An envelope?

Kazuki didn't know who could've sent him a letter.

"—Hmmm?"

What's this?

When Kazuki flipped it over without thinking about it too much, he was stunned.

"... C-could this beeee!?"

A cute illustration of a bubbly animal...

Round female-like handwriting...

And the heading "To Kazuki Ootaki-kun..."

"T-this is... don't tell me... no... it can't be..."

He looked around him in shock. It could've been a prank.

But the only person capable of pulling this prank was Ryouta, and he had already left. The possibility was low.

Kazuki looked around once more just to be sure, but there wasn't anyone looking at him.

It doesn't seem to be a prank.

With trembling hands, Kazuki opened the envelope and held out the twice folded letter.

"I am sorry for suddenly sending you this letter. There is something that I really want to say, so please come alone to second year class six today at half past five. I'll be waiting for you...."

He calmly closed the letter and placed it back in the envelope. Kazuki looked cold on the outside.

However...

T-t-this is!

In his heart a wave of emotions were clashing within him. The only reason why he appeared to be calm was because he was paralyzed with shock.

When Kazuki's brain recovered from the shock, it quickly sent out an emergency notice to his body.

This was most likely a "love letter!?"

From who!?

For what!?

No no, I shouldn't be asking "for what," if it was a love letter.

"Huh? There's no name on it."

Kazuki checked the envelope and letter, but sender's name was nowhere to be found.

... I'm so happy.

I've never received a love letter in my life, so I'm very happy.

Ahh, what should I do? I have Kinoshita in my heart...

No no, we're not dating, and there's no way Kinoshita likes me!

Ah, I feel like crying just thinking about it.

Why do I feel so sad when I just received a love letter?

"A-anyways, let's calm down. Deep breaths..."

Kazuki took a deep breath and quietly exhaled.

For some reason, he felt slightly better.

Once again.

He took a deep breath and tried to calm down—.

"Onii-chan."

"Pffttt."

Someone behind him suddenly talked.

What a surprise!

Kazuki thought his heart was going to jump out of his chest.

Coughing loudly, Kazuki turned around and saw a girl holding a briefcase that didn't match her small body and twin tails - Sabrina.

Kazuki quickly hid the love letter.

He knew that Sabrina couldn't find out about the letter.

"S-Sabrina. W-what's up?"

"I came to find you since you didn't come after so long. Did something happen?"

"No! No no. Nothing at all! There's no problem!"

"Why are you denying it so much?"

"Uuu..."

Kazuki denied it repeatedly so that Sabrina wouldn't be suspicious of him, but it appeared to have backfired.

"...Are you really ok?"

Sabrina asked once more with an expressionless face.

Although Sabrina didn't have any particular expression, Kazuki has started noticing subtle differences lately.

Kazuki took control of his expressions knowing that he couldn't afford to be any more conspicuous.

He tried to talk.

"It's alright. There's nothing wrong."²

He sounded painfully obvious.

"..."

Sabrina stared at him coolly.

Kazuki knew what she was going to say.

Her gaze was extremely painful.

Kazuki was able to talk his way out of it somehow, and since there was some time left until the meeting time he decided to leave school with Sabrina. They stopped by the shopping district and bought some groceries.

Fidget fidget. Doki doki. Heh Heh.

Noticing what he was doing, he quickly returned to his normal facial expression...

But he couldn't keep a straight face and went back to fidgeting....

Kazuki repeated this cycle over and over again.

Flip.

It hasn't even been a minute since he last checked his phone, but he opened his (flip style) phone to check the time.

Step step. Fidget fidget. Flip.

² The spelling mistakes in this sentence were intentional and in the original text.

Step step. Doki doki. Flip.

Step step. Heh heh. Flip

Anyone could tell that he was insane.

Since Sabrina wasn't the type to start a conversation, she was pretty quiet if Kazuki was.

Not noticing this, Kazuki checked the time on his phone again.

...It was 15 past 5.

If he didn't head back now, he would be late.

I better take action now....

Right, let's do this! Yeah, I can do it!

I've been running it over in my head, and if I stay calm, I can succeed!

Kazuki made up his mind and started taking action.

"Ah— not good—. I left something behind at school. I would be in trouble without it—. I need to go back and get it even though it's troublesome—. Sorry Sabrina, but do you want to go back first—?"

Maintaining his calmness and a straight face, he said the lines that he practiced in his head.

Great, it was perfect.

Kazuki wore an unnatural smile.

With this, Sabrina should—.

"..... (Sta—re)."

She's suspecting me—!?

But being suspect didn't really matter, she hasn't noticed it yet.

This is the turning point.

... I can't look away, I'll get killed!

Kazuki felt the chilly air blowing behind him and kept the smile on his face.

"..... Si. I understand."

After what felt like 10 minutes, Sabrina answered Kazuki.

Kazuki felt like he just won the greatest battle in all his life.

"Really?! Alright!"

"Alright?"

"N-no, I meant 'Alright, time to get the things even though it's troublesome'."

"... It's really suspicious."

"What?"

"No. It's nothing. Then, I'll carry the groceries home."

"Ah, yeah. Sorry about that. I'll come back as soon as possible, so bye!"

Kazuki turned around and rushed to the school.

Thank god it worked out somehow... although, I do feel sorry for Sabrina.

Kazuki reached the school gates. Since he ran to school and sweat a lot, he tried to dry himself and checked his phone for the time.

"I've got 5 minutes. Good."

Since the front gates were shut, he had to head towards the back entrance. Even though the back entrance was also shut, he was able to get in through a hole in the fence.

At Kazuki's school, the school building surrounded the field and was divided into the east and west buildings. The second and third years used the east building

while the first years and the miscellaneous classrooms were in the west building. He was able to get in the east building via the emergency exit (the door is broken).

Did she call him out because she knew that there were no teachers in school today?

Thinking about who the girl might be, Kazuki made his way up to the sixth class of the second year.

He walked up the dim stairs and passed the silent corridor.

He reached the rendezvous.

"Ah..."

There was light coming from the classroom.

The person who sent him the letter should be waiting in that room.

Kazuki swallowed nervously.

With his trembling hand, he slowly opened the cracked door.

The girl inside was looking out the window. Her face wasn't visible to Kazuki yet.

Ah, don't tell me...

The girl's back was...

The girl had her brown hair held in place with hairpins.

Don't tell me, it can't be—.

Kazuki had seen the girl's back before. No, he had been looking at it all the time.

The girl turned around.

"Ootaki-kun?"

Surprisingly, the girl was Saki Kinoshita.

Hence, the person who sent him the love letter was Saki as well.

Kazuki has a crush on Kinoshita...

But he always thought that his feelings were unrequited - he thought it was impossible for him.

If Kinoshita sent a love letter to me...

It's not a dream... right...?

Kazuki couldn't believe the situation.

Step by step, Saki walked closer to him.

"Eh, t-that's..."

Kazuki couldn't speak.

"Ootaki-kun..."

Unconsciously, he stopped moving. Saki drew even closer to him.

Whoaaa!

Am I finally getting confessed to!? And by Kinoshita who I have a crush on!? Was this really happening?

"Umm..."

C-could we go to school and eat lunch together from now on?

And do some gardening together on the weekends... wow. What is this!? I'm so happy!

"Um..."

Kinoshita was already blushing.

No, I should think about those events later on.

I need to think about my answer to Kinoshita's confession.

Step by step, the distance between them shortened.

As the distance shortened, Kazuki's heartbeat increased proportionally.

"So, umm..."

Saki, who was standing before him, shyly opened her mouth to talk.

That's it!

At that moment, Kazuki had a brilliant idea.

I like Kinoshita as well.

That means that I shouldn't make Kinoshita confess right now.

Knowing her feelings, Kazuki didn't need to hesitate any longer.

This is something that the guy should shout out!

Alright!

Kazuki firmly decided to say it himself.

"Kinoshita! All this time, I've—."

"W-what did you want to say to me?"

"Liked shellfishes as well!"

After hearing Saki's unexpected question, Kazuki quickly changed what he was about to say.

"Shellfishes? Me?"

"T-that's right! Ah ha ha ha ha ha. I always thought that you might like roasted shellfishes!"

"Huh? F- food that I like? Hmm, I like fried shrimps, though..."

"I see! Fried shrimps are great! They taste the best when they're fried! Ah ha ha ha ha ha...."

It was anguishing. However, Kazuki could only laugh like that.

"S-so, what Ootaki-kun wanted to say... was that?"

Saki somehow appeared let down.

Huh?

Something didn't sound right to Kazuki.

"Wait, what do you mean what I wanted to say?"

"Y-yeah, didn't Ootaki-kun call me out to tell me something?"

In an instant, Kazuki's head went blank.

He couldn't understand what Saki just said.

Hmm, what happened?

I had something to say to Kinoshita?

Then the confession—.

"T-that's right! What about the confession?"

By mistake, he thought out loud.

"Huh!? C-c-c-confession!? Tha- w-what!? Ootaki wasn't going to!? Ah!"

Saki closed her mouth with her cheeks bright red.

He felt a sense of incongruity.

For some reason, their stories didn't match up. Kazuki removed the love letter he found in his shoe locker from his pocket.

"I found this letter in my shoe locker, but Kinoshita didn't send it to me?"

She also pulled an envelope out of her pocket.

"Huh? But I got one in my locker as well?"

It seemed like someone called both of them out using the letters.

Then who on earth did it? And why?

Creak.

Suddenly, the cleaning closet door opened.

Roll.

From the closet, Sabrina rolled out.

"... I made a mistake."

""Sabrina!?"""

"How strange. Why is there a broomstick here?"

"No no! It's normal for there to be a broom stick inside a cleaning closet! What's strange is you being inside the closet! Why are you here!?"

Sabrina picked the cleaning equipment up and showed Kazuki a letter she removed from her pocket.

"Your brother is going to flirt with a girl afterschool. Heh heh heh... what the hell!? Why is Sabrina's letter written like this?"

"I trusted you Onii-chan, but as you returned to school, I arrived here first and waited for you in the closet."

Sabrina let out a threatening aura.

"What were you going to talk about with this woman?"

"N-no, I'm not too sure either..."

Sabrina turned away from the muttering Kazuki and faced Saki.

"Saki Kinoshita. You've got guts to toy with my brother."

"Eh? N-no! You're wrong, w-wait, Sabrina. Kyaa!"

Bite.

Sabrina started to bite Saki's hand mercilessly.

"If movbess."

"I don't know what you're saying, Sabrina!"

"Sabrina, talk or bite - not both!"

Sabrina let go of Saki's hand.

"Si. I said 'It's useless.' Now then—!"

She resumed biting.

"Kyaaa—ah. Don't biteeee!"

"Ahhh, Sabrina, you shouldn't bite—!"

Kazuki hugged Sabrina from behind and separated her from Saki. Saki's eyes were teary and she was blowing on the hand Sabrina had bitten.

Press.

Sabrina turned around and hugged Kazuki.

"Sabrina?"

"... Like this."

It looked like she was trying to suck up his energy like she did when they had sukiyaki. Sabrina clung to him like a leech for a while.

Kazuki was surprised, but he still gave Sabrina's head a pat.

Then Kazuki realized something.

"...Then who called us out?"

He muttered softly.

Ding dong ding dong.

Suddenly the notification sound rang out from the speaker.

Even though there shouldn't be anyone else in the school...

「Looks like everyone is here.」

A clear voice spoke through the speaker. Kazuki has heard that voice before.

It was Sofia, a solider of the Jevini Family and Sabrina's teacher in the art of assassination.

Kazuki tensed up. Sabrina must've tensed up as well, because she gripped Kazuki's arm tighter.

"Hey - why is Sofia-san here?"

Kazuki almost moaned. Saki didn't seem to understand and stood there blankly.

「Hu hu, you must be surprised. Well, it's not a surprise. There are cameras installed in the classroom, so I can see your movements.」

Kazuki looked around but couldn't see the cameras.

"Were you the one who set this up, Sofia?"

Sabrina cautiously stepped in front of Kazuki and Saki.

「I don't like meaningless questions. Didn't I tell you that? ... Sabrina.」

"What are you trying to do?"

「It would be faster to show you instead of explaining it. Look under the lectern.」

Being the closest one to the lectern, Sabrina looked under it reluctantly.

Sabrina's eyes lit up with agitation after seeing what was there.

"Oh, it's just an alarm clock?"

Saki blinked her eyes as she saw the object.

"... Both of you, please step back. This is a bomb."

"Wha—."

A bomb!?

Kazuki didn't believe his ears. However... Sabrina wasn't the type to joke or pull a prank. He was able to see from her frozen facial expression that she was serious.

"Kinoshita, take cover at the back of the class!"

Pushing the tables aside, they all backed up to the rear of the room.

「It's futile. I've installed bombs all over the school and can set them all off with the push of a button.」

If those bombs explode... Kazuki's legs started wobbling.

Assuming what she had said was true, running away from the classroom wouldn't be enough to evade the explosion. They were completely trapped.

"Ootaki-kun, is that really a bomb?"

Saki asked nervously, being the only one who didn't understand the situation.

Kazuki heavily nodded his head.

"W-who is this Sofia-san? What's going on?"

"She's after me."

"... Sabrina?"

"Kinoshita, this might be hard to believe, but Sabrina has her personal circumstances and became a mafia boss. The person on the speakers is trying to take Sabrina back to the mafia organization."

"Huh? Why would she do all this just to bring Sabrina back?"

"That's probably because..."

Kazuki trailed off. However, the reason was understood without Kazuki needing to explain.

Sofia spoke to Sabrina:

「Sabrina, stop behaving so spoiled and return. If you come back obediently, no-one needs to get hurt.」

"..."

「You said it before, didn't you? You said you would protect those close to you when they're in danger.」

Sofia paused for her previous statement to hit home with Sabrina.

「Look at the situation; Instead of protecting them, you're in danger as well. How can you say that you'll protect others, when you can't even protect yourself?」

"... Uuu."

Sabrina was at a loss for words. It seemed like she was unable to retort.

Maybe it was because of her anger towards Sofia, or because she was blaming herself, but Sabrina's shoulders were trembling.

「Boy.」

Kazuki was surprised.

「It must've been hard on you as well. Let's be honest here, it was a bother right? We're talking about Sabrina after all.」

After hearing Sofia's words, Sabrina was visibly upset.

Sabrina's usual expressionless face was gone and she looked terrified... as if something she's been fearing was happening.

It's a bother to have Sabrina around...?

My usual quiet and average everyday life did disappear when Sabrina arrived...

And there has been times when Sabrina caused a lot of trouble...

But Sabrina always tried her best.

She really was a good girl.

So... but...

Did I think of Sabrina as a bother?

He couldn't think of an answer no matter how hard he thought.

Sabrina, Sofia and even Saki all looked at Kazuki for his answer.

Kazuki started to feel anxious knowing that he had to say something.

"I..."

"No. I won't go back."

"Sabrina..."

Nothing could be heard from the speakers.

After a short silence, Sofia asked for confirmation.

「Hey, do you even know what you're saying?」

"I do. But... but I..."

「So it's ok if I detonate this?」

"That's—"

「Then come back.」

"..."

Sabrina knew that there were no other choices left.

But.

"... No."

She refused once more.

Saki held Sabrina's hand tightly and nodded without completely understanding what was going on.

「I see...」

Sofia let out a short sigh.

In the next instant the classroom flashed white with a "paa" sound.

The powerful tremor slammed against their eardrums. The shockwave pushed the three of them out of the classroom.

The bomb exploded.

3

Meanwhile, in the broadcasting room in the western building.

"Why..."

Sofia's pale face looked at the detonator in the hand that held it.

She wasn't the one who pressed it.

Desperately suppressing her anger, she questioned the man behind her.

"Why did you press the detonator, underboss?!"

"Ah ha ha ha— that bomb was surprisingly powerful."

Juan looked out the window at the school building with great interest.

In his hand, he held the detonator.

"I thought we had an agreement to use this as a threat... no, to keep them in check."

"Ah ha ha ha ha ha—ah?"

Juan gazed over at Sofia. His expression changed to a baffled one.

"But she didn't agree... You said that Sabrina would come back if we threaten her friends, but it didn't work."

"That's—"

"So plan A failed at that point, so we had to switch to plan B. Well, I didn't tell you about it though. Ku ku ku. Do you have any complaints? You, a soldier who always fails."

"...!"

"Well, this is a great opportunity. With this, Sabrina won't be behaving so spoiled. It'll be a great experience for her."

"What if something happened to Sabrina!? And that place also had civilians!"

"Sabrina has received special training. So she shouldn't have died. As for the others... well, they were just unlucky."

"Y- you—!"

For an instant, Sofia's vision went completely white with rage. She tried to attack Juan; however, due to her anger, Sofia was full of openings.

"Ughh."

Unfortunately, one of Juan's men punched her stomach as she charged at Juan. She couldn't resist the pain and kneeled. The rest of the men pointed guns at her.

"Hey hey, how scary."

Juan held up his hand to stop his men, and started to filing his nails with a gleeful smile.

Resisting the pain in her stomach, Sofia stood up. She tried to leave the room.

"... What are you trying to do?"

"I'll go and save her."

"You mean Sabrina?"

Sofia chose not to reply to his question. The sound of Juan purposefully sighing on could be heard behind her.

"I'm disappointed in you. I was going to be nice to you, since the boss favored you, but I'll remember your actions."

"... Yes."

Turning her back to Juan, Sofia hurried to the eastern side of the school.

4

Kazuki shuddered just thinking about the bomb that had exploded.

Kazuki didn't suffer much damage from being slammed into the wall by the explosion. He didn't even want to think about what would've happened if the chairs and the desks had slammed into him.

He crawled out from under the pile of chairs and the desks, and eventually managed to somehow make it out of the classroom.

"This is—."

Kazuki stopped breathing at the sight of the corridor.

The bombs weren't just a threat. The corridor's roof had collapsed and parts of the upper floor were visible. This floor had a big hole and the walls between the classrooms and corridors were all destroyed.

Due to the burning black smoke, the fire alarms were screeching. Some of the sprinklers were spraying water everywhere, but they weren't able to battle the flames.

This place wasn't the school that Kazuki once knew.

It was almost like a nightmare.

The only way he was able to tell that this wasn't a nightmare were his five senses.

The school building has been badly damaged; however, the classroom that Kazuki and the two others were in had not been as badly damaged - as if the bombs took it easy on them.

"Are the two of you safe!? I'll secure an escape path, so stay where you are!"

Sabrina's voice rang out through the commotion.

Thank god, she's safe. Thinking that, something about the usual cold Sabrina didn't sit right with Kazuki.

He was stunned. His legs were shivering, and he found it hard to move properly.

However, he didn't cry, because Saki was there.

Kazuki lived with Sabrina so he knew her circumstances. That was how he was swept up into this mess, but Saki had nothing to do with it. She was just an innocent bystander.

"Kinoshita! Where are you Kinoshita!?"

"Over here—."

Saki escaped the pile of tables and walked through the corridor.

"Kinoshita, are you hurt anywhere!?"

"Ah, yeah. I'm fine."

Saki's hand was shaking as she escaped the tables.

I see, so the tables served as a protective barrier. Kazuki felt relieved as he pulled Saki towards him.

All that was on his mind was returning Kinoshita to safety.

Having stood up, Saki dusted off her school uniform.

"... It turned out to be a catastrophe. Cough, cough."

She wasn't panicking, even in a situation like this. She was being her usual self - acting brightly.

Her expression dug into Kazuki's heart.

"I'm sorry Kinoshita! I'm really sorry! Sorry for dragging you into this situation!"

"Why are you apologizing, Ootaki-kun?"

"But..."

"Ootaki-kun isn't at fault."

"Huh?"

Saki's words were warm and it melted him.

"Sabrina either."

Saki's facial expression looked slightly forced, but she was still trying her best to smile.

"I'm fine. I'm not hurt either. Please go to Sabrina first, I think she might blame herself for this."

She was caught up in the explosion even though she wasn't involved with the situation.

Even though she should be complaining, Saki wasn't crying at all.

Furthermore, she was actually concerned about Sabrina.

She was even smiling to assure Kazuki.

"How can you..."

"Ootaki-kun! Look out!"

Saki pushed Kazuki aside. Falling rubble hit her head as it fell.

Saki collapsed on the floor.

"Kinoshita, Kinoshita!?"

Drip.

When he picked Saki up, he felt a sticky substance on his hands.

He looked at his hands while trembling. His hands were covered in a sticky red substance.

His hair stood up on end.

Blood—.

It was red.

The color of death.

The color of despair.

Something inside Kazuki audibly broke. It felt like he was paralyzed and unable to move at all.

At that moment. Sabrina returned after securing an escape path.

"Saki! Onii-chan, what happened?"

"...Kinoshita... she protected me..."

Sabrina removed a knife from her toolbox and tore her skirt.

Rip.

Her pale thigh was visible. She removed a handkerchief from her pocket, and using the torn skirt, she wrapped it around Saki's head as first-aid.

"It's probably just a small cut. She should be ok with this. I'll take Saki, so please get up Onii-chan."

Seeing Sabrina acting swiftly, Kazuki froze with his eyes wide open.

"..."

"Onii-chan."

"...It's impossible."

"What are you saying? If we don't hurry—"

"I said it's impossible!"

Kazuki yelled out.

Sabrina shrank back in surprise.

"... Onii... chan?"

"This isn't normal... the school blew up and hurt an innocent bystander! This isn't normal!"

The situation was urgent.

He knew that Sabrina was doing the right thing in this situation.

He knew that she was right, but he couldn't accept it.

— You and Sabrina live in different worlds. It won't turn out well in the end.

Kazuki finally understood what Sofia meant.

It wasn't just Sabrina... I took it the situation too lightly.

A lot of things happened while Sabrina was around, but I've always thought it would work out in the end somehow. But I never have expected the school to be blown up like this and Kinoshita to get hurt this badly.

It was impossible from the start.

It was impossible for a civilian and a member of the mafia to live together.

Rumble.

At that instant, a giant concrete post started falling towards Kazuki.

"Whoa..."

"Onii-chan! Watch out!"

Kazuki wasn't able to use any strength in his body. He was unable to move.

Sabrina tried to drag Kazuki (who was still in his immobilized state) to safety, but she couldn't budge him at all.

Kazuki stared at the falling post in wonder.

At this rate, I'll be crushed.

... But I can't move.

"... Uuu."

Sabrina stood between the falling post and Kazuki. Anyone could see that it was pointless, but she used her body to cover Kazuki.

"Sabri—."

"Sabrina! Get down!"

There was a voice that overpowered Kazuki's own.

It was Sofia who appeared in a flash.

Bang Bang Bang Bang.

She fired her assault rifle.

The bullets hit the base of another post opposite to the one that was actually falling.

She missed?

Sofia opened the coat she was wearing. In it was a variety of hidden weapons.

Among them was a grenade. Sofia quickly threw it at the post she just shot.

She shot at the grenade, causing it to explode mid-air.

The post, weakened by previous bullets, broke and hit the falling post - knocking it away from Kazuki and Sabrina.

Rumble—.

With a dull thud, the post fell - barely missing Kazuki and Sabrina. They were able to avoid being crushed.

Kazuki looked up at Sofia. She looked like she was about to cry, and her face was in anguish.

"... Uhh."

Saki regained consciousness in his arms.

"Kinoshita!"

"Huh... I..."

"Don't move! Show me your wound!"

Sofia gently picked Saki up and checked the first aid that Sabrina had performed. Her expression was now back to normal.

Why did Sofia come to save them if she was the one who set off the bomb?

Kazuki was confused.

"The injury isn't serious. It looks like she bled a lot because one of her larger blood vessels was damaged. She should be fine with this, so let's head outside quickly. It's dangerous to remain inside."

After saying that, Sofia picked Saki up and led Kazuki and Sabrina outside. Since Sabrina secured a safe escape route, they were able to escape relatively quickly.

After leaning Saki against the fence, Sofia deeply sighed and turned towards Sabrina. Kazuki silently watched the two.

"...Sofia."

"Sabrina, you can blame me for all this, but I just want you to know this: you weren't able to protect those two."

Sofia coldly stated the facts.

"The world that you live in is too different. You're a mafia boss, whether you like it... or not."

Sabrina didn't say anything in response. She just silently looked down.

"From now on, a lot of different people will be after your life - regardless of if they're enemies or allies. If you were by yourself, you might be able to handle it somehow. But the ones who're after you won't be playing fair - they'll attack your weak spots mercilessly."

Sofia whispered to Sabrina. Kazuki wasn't able to hear what they were talking about.

Sabrina shrank.

"Onii-chan..."

She looked back at him.

She extended her hand to him, as if she were calling for help.

Her small and slender hand.

Although Kazuki could've touched that hand if he extended his own, Kazuki only looked at her hand.

Sabrina's hand.

But it was also the hand of a member of the mafia.

A hand that clung to me for some reason...

But a hand that brought fights and bloodshed.

— "Onii-chan is really like the brother that I imagined you to be."

No... that's not it.

You expected too much from me.

I'm not the brother that you imagined me to be.

Kazuki recalled the warmth of Saki's blood that he felt on his hand.

Her expectations of me are... it's too much.

It was overwhelming.

So.

Kazuki couldn't...

...

.....

..... He couldn't grab Sabrina's hand at all.

Suddenly, Sabrina lost the light in her eyes.

Her eyes were now a cold blue.

Her expressionless face didn't change, but now Sabrina appeared to be a completely different person.



"Arrivederla³..."

Sabrina turned and walked away from Kazuki.

Sabrina was walking towards a man in a suit.

Sofia, who tried to follow Sabrina, stopped and bowed her head slightly at Kazuki.

Even though she succeeded in bringing Sabrina back, Sofia had a bitter expression on her face.

"You guys better leave now before it gets any worse."

She left them with those words and ran after Sabrina.

"Sabrina..."

Kazuki called out her name, but she had already disappeared.

It probably wasn't too late to follow her now.

However...

Kazuki didn't pursue her.

³ Arrivederla - polite way of saying "good bye" in Italian.

Capitolo. 5 Shower and The Distant Thunder

1

"Sabrina, I'm coming in."

When Sofia knocked on the door and went inside, Sabrina was sitting in a chair near the window. She was still in her school uniform, while the new clothes provided for her were still sitting on the hangers.

She probably didn't sleep since the bed was still made.

"I see that you haven't eaten again."

"..."

"You haven't eaten anything since yesterday. Just have some yogurt at least."

"... No."

Sofia sighed and lifted up the plates to take them away.

Before she left the room, she looked at Sabrina once more.

All she was doing was looking out the window.

Sofia quietly closed the door.

"How chilling. I can't tell if she's alive or not. She's almost like a doll."

As she left the room, Sofia saw the one person she didn't want to see, who was wearing a sinister smile.

Sofia suppressed her feelings and replied.

"Underboss, my apologies, but let me tell you something. Sabrina is not a doll."

Whew.

Juan whistled and flexed his shoulders. Sofia ignored him and placed the dishes on the cart.

She then simply walked away from him.

There was no-one else in the corridor. It wasn't surprising, because the Jevini Family booked the entire level on the hotel's highest floor.

Sofia turned the corner.

Bam.

Sofia weakly punched the wall in the tight hallway.

What is this feeling?

Why do I feel like this?

Sabrina...

It was all for that child.

Unexpected things had happened, but she should be happier here.

But why...?

Why did Sabrina look like she was in such pain?

I've done the right thing.

I should be able to say that with pride... but looking at Sabrina now, I'm not even sure anymore.

Sabrina was like this back in Italy as well.

She was almost like a doll.

Now that I think about it...

Sabrina was generally passive in her studies... except Japanese, which she was particularly studious in learning.

Was it for that boy named Kazuki Ootaki?

Because she might see him one day, even though it's unlikely.

So that she'll be able to speak with that boy if they were eventually able to meet.

Sabrina studied extremely hard.

In other words—.

She was happy... just being... by that boy's side...?

Her true happiness...

"Am I fine with this...?"

Sofia muttered to herself.

She couldn't give an answer, because the question evaporated under the gloomy lights.

2

He was dreaming.

It was quite an old dream.

Kazuki was walking at a fast pace among a crowd of people.

"Well done." "Heh heh heh." "It's all on camera~."

Cheerful dialogue could be overheard and there were a bunch of parents and children sitting around their colorful lunches.

"Daddy, do your best in the parents relay." "Leave it to me. We practiced together for the event, after all!" "But dear, you need to be careful so that you don't hurt your back."

He was trembling as he walked.

"Why..."

He spoke in a discontent manner as he walked.

Why is everyone so happy?

They're all laughing and smiling.

I want to...

— 「Listen up, Kazuki. You must eat all the bread in the bread eating race! If you do, you won't lose! Daddy and mommy will be watching you, so do your best!」

— 「We'll film you and send it to Hollywood so that they make an amazing SFX movie.」

He remembered what his parents told him.

Kazuki's parents were so busy with work, they usually didn't return home. So he'd never seen his parents participate in these events before.

So Kazuki used to hate these festivals so much.

But today was different.

Surprisingly, his parents called him and said that they would actually visit the sports festival.

He was really, really excited about it. Thanks to that, he wasn't able to sleep a wink the night before.

However.

"... Liars."

Kazuki's parents didn't show up.

Right now was lunch time of the sports festival. This time was meant to be special. It was a time where he could be loved by his parents.

Kazuki spent this time alone.

What happened to mom and dad?

Other parents came, why didn't my parents?

... Do they hate me?

No, that can't be it.

They must've slept in.

They will come... for sure.

"Kyaa."

"Huh?"

As Kazuki was trying to get away from the crowded field, he heard a scream from behind the school. Looking at the source of the scream, there were three male students surrounding a female student.

Since today was the school sports festival, all students were wearing a colored tag to indicate their year. The male students were 3rd years while the female student was a 2nd year - same as Kazuki.

"Ei!"

"Kyaa."

The biggest of the three boys pushed the girl down and she landed on her butt.

The three seniors were bullying a single girl.

The first thing Kazuki felt when he saw the situation was fear.

He didn't want to let them off the hook for bullying a girl. He wanted to go and help her; however, the bullies were older than him. If he joined in, he might get bullied as well.

"I need to get a teacher first..."

"You're just an abandoned child."

"What?"

After hearing the comment said to the girl, Kazuki stopped looking for a teacher.

An abandoned child... what do they mean?

"Your mom and dad just threw you away."

"No, that's not it."

"Then why aren't your mom and dad here to see you in the sports festival? They're not here because they don't like you. You're just an abandoned child!"

Flinch.

The words said to the girl actually affected Kazuki as well.

The bullies aren't even talking about me, why does my heart hurt so much...?

"If you're not abandoned, then why aren't your parents here to watch you?"

Flinch.

"See, you really were abandoned by your parents!"

Flinch.

The boys teased the girl as they giggled.

The girl wasn't saying anything and kept her head bowed.

That girl, is she being bullied because her parents aren't here?

To say that you're hated by your own parents... or that you're an abandoned child...

That's...

Kazuki was becoming furious.

The older kids started to say even meaner things.

"It's decided that you've been abandoned~."

"N- no..."

The brown haired girl had tears in her eyes.

"You're a hated child."

She tried to stop herself, but.

"Needless child!"

She started to cry.

"Stop it!"

Kazuki couldn't take it any longer.... Moreover, when he realized what he was doing, he was already standing in front of the seniors.

The bullies surrounding the crouched girl looked at Kazuki.

Although they were surprised by the yell, they quickly relaxed after spotting Kazuki's tag.

"What, it's just a 2nd year. What do you want?"

"What's wrong with parents not being here!? It's not like we're hated just because they didn't come! Apologize!"

"What? This doesn't involve you!"

"It does!"

"You act pretty cocky for a kid. What are you going to do about it? Huh?"

Slap.

The tallest one of the seniors slapped Kazuki's face. It hurt a lot. Kazuki thought he was going to cry from the pain.

But he didn't cry.

If he cried, then it would be the same as accepting what the seniors were saying as the truth.

"I'll make you apologize!"

Kazuki rebelled against them. Not knowing what to do, he charged in with a head butt. Luckily, Kazuki head butted the senior who just hit him right in the chin.

"Ughh."

The senior fell backwards.

"Hey, are you alright?"

"Uuu...waaa..."

The senior started to cry.

"Ah—."

When Kazuki saw that, his heart started to hurt even more than his slapped cheek or his head.

"I won't forgive you even if you cry! I told you to apologize!"

"Eh? Ah, whooa."

The remaining two charged at same time. Kazuki couldn't protect himself and was instantly knocked over.

But Kazuki didn't give up.

While still on the ground, Kazuki grabbed one of the senior's leg.

"Hold it. I said, apologize... for what you've said before. About the abandoned child. Apologize for everything you said!"

"What the hell man! Hey, let's go."

The older students must've been put off by Kazuki's persistence, because they left the place after shaking Kazuki's hand off.

"Damn... I guess it's too hard to win against someone older than me in my first fight."

Kazuki was shaking as he lifted himself off the ground. As he did, the girl who was getting bullied came up to him.

"T-thanks for helping me, I..."

"... You don't need to thank me. I just couldn't forgive those guys... and I think you were in the wrong as well."

"Huh?"

"They normally come don't they? Your mom and dad."

"Yes."

"Then you should've boldly told them."

"But... but they haven't arrived even though it's lunch time. What if they really hate me..."

"Family members wouldn't hate each other!"

"Kyaa..."

Kazuki yelled at the girl without meaning to, but he quickly regained his senses and turned his head.

"... Family members wouldn't hate each other."

He said that to the girl.

But he also said it for himself.

At that moment.

"Sa-chan!"

There was a voice. The girl turned around by reflex.

"Mom! Dad!"

She ran towards her parents' arms.

"You're late! What were you doing!?"

"Sorry, sorry. We couldn't find the camera, so we spent a long time searching for it."

"Geez! I was really, really lonely."

"Sorry Sa-chan. Are you hungry? We packed some lunches, so let's eat. There are some of those fried shrimp that Sa-chan loves so much."

"Uuu... I won't forgive you with just that."

"There are a lot. You can have them all Sa-chan."

"Huh? Really? All of them? ...Then I'll forgive you, heh heh heh."

The parents gently patted the teary eyed girl's head.

"... See, it all worked out somehow."

Kazuki muttered to himself while watching the girl with her parents in the distance.

「Please be aware that the afternoon portion of the sports festival will begin soon.」

The announcement echoed out from the speakers.

"Ah, not good. I better buy some lunch."

Kazuki picked up the white and red hat that flew off during the fight, and passed the girl and her parents.

"Ah—."

The girl tried to say something, but Kazuki pretended not to notice and ran away.

Kazuki pulled down on his hat.

And sprinted towards the convenience shop.



"... That dream again."

The light seeping through the curtains shone upon Kazuki's face. He peeked at the clock and saw its hand pointing to 9 o'clock.

Yesterday, before a crowd of people formed, Kazuki and Saki ran away from the school. They soon parted ways afterwards, but before they did, Saki promised him that she wouldn't speak of this incident to anyone.

After separating from Saki, Kazuki waited in his living room hoping that Sabrina might return. However, she didn't come back no matter how long he waited.

Not knowing when he fell asleep, Kazuki picked himself up.

He even forgot about getting changed, so his uniform was crumpled and his joints hurt because he slept on the floor.

Kazuki looked around the living room with half open eyes.

It was quite empty.

Only silence filled the space.

"Ah ha, ha ha... that's right. This house was this large, wasn't it..."

Kazuki stood up.

"Ah—."

Yesterday, he and Sabrina were running late so they had some breakfast and left for school without cleaning up afterwards. On the table, two sets of mugs and plates remained the way they were the day before.

"... Sabrina."

He spoke to himself.

I've been lonely by myself.

Ever since Sabrina arrived here, I'd forgotten that.

Even though she was a bother and such, the one getting saved was me.

But Sabrina has already...

— Arrivederla... (Good Bye)

Kazuki couldn't get the image of Sabrina's expression from last night out of his head.

I deeply hurt that girl.

But I am a civilian while she is a member of the mafia. This was going to happen sooner or later anyway.

He didn't think that it was going to last for a long time.

So now, his life was back to normal.

His life was back to normal, just like it was before Sabrina arrived.

Nothing has changed...

As Kazuki stood there blankly, the doorbell rang.

Sabrina!?

He ran towards the front door.

"He—."

Kazuki was taken aback at the sight of the visitor.

"Sofia..."

Kazuki backed away slowly.

The one who called out Kazuki, Saki and Sabrina to the school and caused the explosions was standing before him.

His body started to shake just by remembering yesterday's event.

"What? Is that how you should react after seeing a girl? You're really an insensitive boy."

"I- I'm sorry..."

"Hmm."

Sofia turned her head away, but she was still looking at him from the corners of her eyes.

"... You're not hurt?"

"Pardon?"

"Nothing."

The silence continued.

"So... what brings you here today?"

"I just came to check out what expression you have - now that Sabrina is going back. What a devastated face."

A cold smile appeared on her face.

"Sabrina is quite happy. Now that she's finally returning."

Her words cut deep into Kazuki's already hurt feelings.

"Is... that so..."

He bowed his head. When he avoided her gaze, Kazuki saw Sofia's hand reaching out to his chest.

She grabbed him by the collar.

"What do you mean 'is that so!?'"

She glared at Kazuki.

Her cold smile that was present before was now deformed painfully and pitifully.

"Sofia-san?"

"..."

"Ughh."

When Sofia let go of her tight grip, Kazuki fell down in the entrance.

"... I was a fool for coming to see you."

She looked away from him.

"Kazuki-ku... whoa!"

Just in that short amount of time, Saki and Izuna arrived at his house.

Sofia sneaked away from the two guests.

"Are you ok!?"

Saki ran towards Kazuki while still keeping an eye on Sofia.

"That was Sofia-san just now wasn't it? Did she do something again?"

"No, it's nothing. I'm fine."

Kazuki tried to smile so that he didn't worry Saki, but he couldn't smile properly at all.

"So, what's up?"

"Hmm, I - I just came by to pass a notice on to everyone. Since I'm the class president, I have to make sure everyone received the message, but I heard no-one passed the message on to Ootaki-kun... so I came to visit... because I was worried. I just happened to meet Izuna-san on the way."

"I see..."

Saki's head was wrapped in bandages that appeared to be very painful. She noticed Kazuki looking at her head with concern and smiled awkwardly.

"Ah, this isn't anything threatening. My mom and dad were freaked out though."

She mimicked herself wrapping the bandages around her head.

Silence set in again. Saki peeked at Kazuki as if she had something to say.

"Ah that's right. About the notice, school will be on break from today on for a while. All the teachers are really worried about what happened yesterday. It was all over the news this morning, but it seems like they don't know exactly what happened."

"...I see."

So it was on TV as well.

Well, that's not unexpected. It was a big deal, after all...

The two of them closed their mouths again.

When the silence continued, Saki asked him while mumbling.

"S... so what happened to Sabrina?"

"... She's not here. I waited for her all night, but she didn't return."

"Hasn't she contacted you yet?"

"I think her phone is turned off, so I don't even know where she is."

Kazuki hunched his shoulders.

"Umm."

Izuna cut in.

"I don't know what's going on, but has Sabrina gone missing? That girl dropped this just now so maybe this is where Sabrina is?"

Izuna handed a page torn from a memo pad to Kazuki.

Sabrina's name as well as the address of a hotel and a room number was written on it.

3

Kazuki looked up at the newly built hotel which was placed only a station away from his house.

If the memo Izuna found was correct, then Sabrina should be on the top floor of this hotel in a suite.

Saki and Izuna didn't come with him. Although they offered, Kazuki turned them away because of the possible danger.

When he entered the building via the revolving door, he walked into the lobby. The fancy decorations in the lobby intimidated Kazuki - he thought this wasn't a place he should be.

Even though he felt nervous, he asked the front desk attendants to call the room number on the memo. Surprisingly, Kazuki was allowed to visit the room, so he got on the elevator and took it to the highest floor.

He stopped in front of the room.

"So Sabrina is here..."

I've arrived...

But what am I going to do when I meet Sabrina?

I don't think she would want to go back together. After all, Sabrina is mafia.

Sabrina and I live in two different worlds.

So what am I going to do when I meet her?

I don't know... but I don't want to separate from her like this.

I want to talk to her once more before she leaves.

What does Sabrina think about this?

No matter how much Kazuki thought, he couldn't give himself a clear answer.

Kazuki took a deep breath and pressed the bell.

Immediately, the door opened and there stood a slim man dressed in a white suit.

"Hey, I've been waiting for you."

The man lead Kazuki into the room with fluent Japanese.

It was probably because of the design that the room appeared to be larger than it actually was. The furniture and various parts of the room were made of matching wood – producing a simple but elegant atmosphere.

The white suited man came and sat down on the impossibly soft sofa, which Kazuki was sitting on as well.

"You did well finding this place."

"Pardon? Um, that's..."

"As expected of the child of the 'Happy Crown.'"

"Ah, thank you.... Ah ha ha."

When Kazuki stuttered, it seemed like the man misunderstood Kazuki completely.

"My name is Juan. And you are? Or maybe you won't tell me, since you're their son."
"

"No, no, that's not it. My name is Kazuki Ootaki."

"Kazuki. That's a good name. So Sabrina was indebted to you, wasn't she? You have my thanks. Hey, get something to drink for Kazuki."

Juan ordered a lackey standing behind him.

"Umm, you don't need to worry about me."

"Oh, I know what that is. It's that thing where you say something opposite to what you really want to say. 'Tsundere,' was it? Kazuki must be really thirsty... hey, bring twice as much."

"N-no!"

The lackey, who was ordered to fetch the drinks, brought back a bucket sized cup of coke. It was almost like a swamp of coal tar.

While leaning against the back of the sofa, Juan looked out the window.

"Japan is nice. Animes, mangas and maid-cafes. It's really interesting."

Although the man was quite biased, it seemed like he had a slight understanding of Japanese culture. That was probably why he was able to speak Japanese.

"So, why did you come here today?"

"Umm, where is Sabrina? I came here to talk to her."

Juan's expression darkened. He looked over his shoulder at the door behind him and shook his head.

"Sabrina isn't in a state where she can see anyone. Sorry."

"That's... was it because of what happened yest—"

"That's not it. She's just not feeling well."

"It's ok if it's only for a moment. Could you let me see her please?"

"Sorry."

Juan looked away from Kazuki and he started filing his nails to show he wasn't interested.

The atmosphere had changed.

The lackeys who were near the walls appeared to be nervous and anxious.

Kazuki suddenly thought Juan wasn't lying when he said Sabrina wasn't feeling well, and that Kazuki was an uninvited guest.

However, he couldn't give up.

He had to talk to Sabrina.

Kazuki didn't have a clue as to what he wanted to hear from Sabrina.

But he just wanted to hear Sabrina's voice.

"Kazuki!?"

He freed himself from Juan's intense atmosphere and reached out for the door where Sabrina was. But the door was locked.

"Sabrina! You're here aren't you!? Open the door!"

He desperately banged on the door. But there was no response.

"Sabrina!"

Juan twisted Kazuki's arm around to stop him from banging on the door anymore.

"Ughhh."

"Calm down. I don't like people who don't listen."

"Just for a bit... Please let me talk to her for just a bit!"

Kazuki asked Juan once more.

Juan started twisting his arm even more and his joints started to scream in pain.

"I want you to scram. Otherwise—"

Juan was still smiling, but his words were cold.

The lackeys in the room all took aim at Kazuki with their guns.

The sight of the guns sent chills down his spine.

That's right. This was that kind of a world.

Just when Kazuki's arm felt like it would break if Juan twisted any further, the door opened from the inside.

"Stop it."

It was Sabrina.

Juan let go of Kazuki's arm while saying "Tsk."

"S-Sabrina..."

Although only a day had passed since the last time he saw Sabrina, it felt like a long time.

Kazuki walked towards Sabrina.

But when he saw her face, he stopped breathing.

It was the same as yesterday.

Sabrina looked at Kazuki with cold eyes that froze him in his steps.

"Please go away. **Kazuki Ootaki-san.**"

"Ehh—."

Sabrina just called Kazuki "Kazuki Ootaki-san" instead of her usual "Onii-chan."

"What's going on Sabrina? I- It's me."

"Please don't say my name so easily. You and I no longer have any relation to each other. Sorry for 'bothering' you to come all the way here."

Sabrina spoke to Kazuki coldly and turned her back to him as she walked back into her room.

"Sabari—."

He tried to follow, but Juan placed his hand on Kazuki's shoulder.

"Well, there you go."

He started gripping Kazuki's shoulder harder.

"It hurts..."

Juan was smiling at Kazuki, but his eyes weren't smiling at all.

Sabrina closed the door slowly.

While Kazuki could only look at it as it closed.

Click.

The door closed.

Juan smirked at Kazuki and let go of his shoulder.

"Kazuki, thanks for understanding. This is my farewell present, treat yourself with it."

Saying that, Juan took a stack of notes and shoved it in Kazuki's shirt pocket.

Since Kazuki wasn't expecting it, he could only take the money and get kicked out of the hotel.

On his way home, Kazuki walked aimlessly without knowing what he should do.

He felt something on his nose.

"Rain...?"

When he noticed, the rain started pouring.

Since Kazuki didn't bring an umbrella, he was drenched by the shower.

But as for Kazuki, he didn't mind at all.

The sky lit up and shortly after, a loud noise echoed.

It was thunder.

He suddenly thought of Sabrina who was scared of thunderstorms.

The thunder sounded like it was telling Kazuki off.

He couldn't stop his tears.

In his tightly clenched fist, his fingernails dug into his palm and he started to bleed, but he could put up with it.

What he couldn't put up with was his sadness, anger and embarrassment.



After Kazuki left, Sabrina looked out her window at the pouring rain.

"... He probably didn't bring an umbrella."

Then suddenly, Juan walked in.

"Kazuki left."

"Si."

"His eyes were bloodshot before he left, so maybe he's crying right now. Ku ku ku."

Sabrina, who was sitting on the sofa, flinched.

"... But it turned out well."

However, she maintained her cold attitude.

"I'm sorry, I want to be left alone. It looks like I'm really feeling unwell."

"Oh, are you ok? We can leave tomorrow if you like. Since we rented the place, we can leave anytime you want."

"No. I want to return as soon as possible."

"Really? Well then, take a rest for now."

Juan left the room as he said "take care of yourself."

Click.

The door closed.

Being left alone, Sabrina muttered to herself.

"Even if I'm here, if I can't be with Onii-chan, it's pointless..."

When Onii-chan came, I was actually happy.

I wanted to run up and hug him.

But I can't do that at all.

I remembered what Sofia told me at the school.

—If you really care about that boy, you must leave his side. If you don't, you might lose him.

That's right, I'm a mafia boss now.

If someone like me stays by Onii-chan's side, then it would trouble him.

Not only that, I'll be putting him in danger.

I can't let that happen.

So, I can't live together with Onii-chan.

Sabrina felt a tight sensation in her chest. Without realizing, she had to use her hand to support herself on the bed.

Droplets of liquid fell onto her hand.

"What are... these?"

They were tear drops.

"Why... am I crying?"

She really didn't know the reason why she was crying.

"Onii-chan—."

Outside the window, thunder echoed as if it were trying to cancel her voice out.

"...Uuu."

Sabrina shrank.

She grabbed the quilts and threw them over herself.

Sabrina had to fight her sadness and fear of storms by herself.

4

The rain just now must've only been a shower, because the weather cleared up fairly quickly after it poured for a while.

"...Hmm?"

When Kazuki returned home drenched, Saki and Izuna were still by the front door. It looks like they stayed there the entire time.

Seeing Kazuki walk towards the door, Saki ran towards him. Kazuki quickly turned his eyes away from her. He didn't want Saki and Izuna to find out he'd been crying.

"Where's Sabrina?"

It looks like she was quite worried about Sabrina. Saki asked as she ran up to him.

"Yeah. She's going back to Italy... so they say."

"... That can't be!"

Saki's eyes opened wide.

"Did you really meet her? Did she really say that!? Did Sabrina really say that?"

Saki asked question after question.

"Yeah, I met her... but I was chased out for being a bother. Ah ha ha ha..."

Kazuki could only put on a bitter smile.

He felt so frustrated at himself, he couldn't face it.

"But it's alright... I understand now. Sabrina herself said that she'll go back to Italy. So there's nothing I can do about it."

"Ootaki-kun..."

"And I think Sabrina is starting to hate me as well—."

"Ootaki-kun!"

Saki swung her right hand at him.

It came in contact with him.

Kazuki closed his eyes and clenched his teeth to prepare himself for the hit with an accepting heart.

But it didn't hurt at all.

Instead, Saki placed her hands on Kazuki's cheeks warmly.

"Kino-shita...?"

"... It's not like you."

"This isn't like you at all, Ootaki-kun!"

"Even if you say that—."

"To speak like that about your own family, it's not like Ootaki-kun at all!"

Saki cut Kazuki off mid-sentence.

"During the sports festival in our second year in primary school... Ootaki-kun might not remember, but you told me that 'Family members wouldn't hate each other!'"



"H-how do you... know..."

Kazuki still remembered that day very clearly.

Because that was a very memorable day for Kazuki as well.

But he said that sentence to a girl who was being bullied at lunch time. How did Saki know what he said?

"Ah—."

Kazuki finally realized... the girl's parents called her "Sa-chan".

"It can't be..."

"That's right. That day, Ootaki-kun saved me from bullies. I didn't have a chance to properly thank you, but I've always been looking at you since then Ootaki-kun. So I believe that Ootaki-kun values his family members dearly!"

"But, but... I heard it from Sabrina herself."

"Do you really think she was telling the truth? Sabrina really likes Ootaki-kun! And Sabrina is Ootaki-kun's family right? Isn't she your sister?"

"Even I... even I think of Sabrina as my little sister!"

"Then—."

"But it's impossible! I'm just a civilian and Sabrina is a member of the mafia. Our worlds are too different!"

"Ootaki-kun..."

A heavy atmosphere settled in between the two.

Then Izuna, who had been leaning against the wall watching the two, spoke.

"I heard about it from Saki. Although she promised you she would stay quiet, don't get mad at her for telling me. I made her tell me anyway."

Izuna walked towards Kazuki.

"You're a spineless guy aren't you, Kazuki?"

She pointed a finger at him.

However, Kazuki already knew that... it was what he didn't want to hear the most.

"I- I'm not spineless! I'm just a civilian! Just a normal person! How can I go against the mafia!?"

"Hmmm... a civilian and a normal person, huh."

"Then I guess a **normal** brother would just sit back and watch his little sister get taken away by the mafia."

"Ah—."

"And what do you mean your worlds are different? The world is all connected, that's why we all breathe the same air and stand on the same ground. If there's a difference, then it's something you created yourself."

"... Uuu."

Kazuki had nothing to say in response.

Everything Izuna said was true.

Izuna spoke softly this time.

"Even if families are far apart, they've got one heart and one mind no matter what they're doing, right? Your parents might not be here because they're doing a special job that's slightly different from your average adult, but you don't think of them as being in a different world, do you?"

Kazuki shook his head in denial.

"You want to be by their side at all times. Even if you're not by their side, your heart is always with them. Isn't that what being family is all about? It's exactly as you said to Saki."

"I..."

Kazuki was trying to avoid a lot of things... and he has been depressed ever since Saki got hurt in the classroom explosion.

He had fooled himself into believing that he was normal and lived in a different world from Sabrina.

"I—."

He has been forgetting the most important thing.

He had forgotten what it means to be normal after trying so hard to make himself seem normal.

Not wanting to be rejected and being self-conscious of other people's view of him.

The fear of meaningless violence.

The feeling of regret - thinking that it was too late.

Kazuki threw all those feelings away and focused on one thing only.

"I want to live with Sabrina."

This was what Kazuki wanted.

Hearing Kazuki declare that, Izuna put on a bright smile. Saki, who was watching him nervously, smiled warmly as well.

"... Maybe I'm not too late?"

Kazuki asked hesitantly.

"Of course you're not. There are no 'it's too late' in this world!"

"No, no, Saki. This world is full of things that are impossible to do. If not, the cathedral would be doing wel—."

"Gee—! This isn't the time for that!"

Saki hit Izuna who just ruined the mood.

"Ah ha... ha."

Seeing the two girls, Kazuki unknowingly laughed.

"Thanks, both of you."

Kazuki raised his head.

His eyes no longer showed any doubt.

"...During that sports festival, your parents were amazing Ootaki-kun."

"Ah ha ha, that was just embarrassing."

When the teacher and parents relay race was about to begin, Kazuki's parents showed up. The couple suddenly participated in the relay and won with an overwhelming speed (a speed that normal humans shouldn't be able to pull off). Afterwards, when their win was contested, they complained to the PE teacher and performed a brain buster¹ on him. Thanks to that, Kazuki got an earful from the teachers afterwards.

"But, you looked happy, Ootaki-kun."

"... Yeah."

"Please go."

"Yeah!"

Kazuki set off running.

With a determination to bring Sabrina back this time.

¹ Brain buster - a pro wrestling move. Also known as a suplex.



Seeing Kazuki leave, Saki hunched down.

"Ahh... why did I just help out my opponent.... It's ok... I can't accept it if Sabrina leaves like this anyway. That's right! You've actually done the right thing Saki! ...Ah - but maybe I'm going to lose against Sabrina... I guess I sort of regret it."

While Saki was deeply engrossed in her monologue, Izuna patted her head gently.

"You did the right thing Saki. There aren't many people who are capable of saying what you said."

"Izuna-san..."

"If you're ok with me, I can council you."

Rrrrrumble.

A large rumbling sound came from Izuna's stomach.

"Now then, we should go somewhere else if I'm going to council you. Should we go to a shop or something? Ah, I have no money, by the way."

"So that's what it's about.... Well that's ok, suit yourself. Should we go to a family restaurant or a cafe?"

"Hmmm~, I don't want to give up either of them, so why don't we go somewhere far away? I know a good place."

"Hmmm. Well, it's up to you."

"Before we leave, do you have a first aid kit, Saki?"

"A first aid kit? What for?"

"Just something ☆"

Izuna put on a mysterious smile and winked at Saki.

Capitolo. 6 Legame -The Bond-

1

Sabrina was getting ready to check out from the hotel.

She was feeling better than before...

But only because she realized that she wouldn't be in pain if she didn't think about, care about, or hope for anything - just like before.

"Did you leave anything behind?"

"..."

"Hey now, Sabrina. You're the boss of the Jevini family, you know? Get your act together."

"..."

Sabrina didn't respond to Juan at all.

Juan appeared to be bored and flexed his shoulders. As he did, one of his lackeys approached and whispered something in his ear.

"Is that so?"

His lips formed a small smile and he looked at Sabrina.

"What a bother. Well, it doesn't matter. I'll take care of it myself."

His words didn't match his expression at all, he wore a crooked smile.

"But, I want you to do something for me."

At Juan's orders, the lackeys left the room immediately.

"Now then."

He smiled and showed a change of mood.

"Sabrina, something has come up. Do you mind waiting in the lobby for me?"

"... Please make it short."

"Of course. It's something really pointless that won't take long. I'll take care of it quickly"

Saying that, Juan left and only Sabrina remained in the room.

Something that doesn't require much of his time?

Sabrina thought about what Juan just said, but she quickly stopped thinking and headed towards the lobby.

She won't think about, care about, or hope for anything.

She entered an empty state.



Sofia, who was still feeling depressed after talking to Kazuki, returned to the room provided for her by Juan after she wandered the streets aimlessly. Unlike the suite room, hers was a small room.

She tried to gather her thoughts as she sat down on the bed.

Sabrina's happiness.

A mafia member's duty...

What was I expecting when I went to see that boy?

No, I think I already know... but I might have been afraid of acknowledging the fact.

Boss... what should I do?

What do you want Sabrina to do... boss?

Why did you give everything to Sabrina?

Because you did that, Sabrina and the boy are...

Sofia threw herself on the bed.

Rustle.

She felt something touching her face.

"An envelope...?"

There wasn't an envelope here when she left. She opened it and looked inside... it contained a few documents.

"Chartered flights... making it appear as an accident... assassination of Sabrina? This is—."

As she read more of the documents, Sofia nearly stopped breathing.

In that same instant, the door to her room violently flew open.

A few girls dressed in black suits were standing outside the room. In their hands, they each held a submachine gun.

All of the girls aimed at Sofia.

"Kuh."

And Sofia leapt from the bed.

2

Yet again, Kazuki was standing in front of the hotel where Sabrina was staying.

When he inquired at the reception desk, he was told that Sabrina's party was about to check out from the hotel.

He was also told to go to the underground parking area if he had something to say.

So, he caught an elevator and headed to the parking lot as he was told.

"But why the parking lot? Ah, they must be going to the airport by car. I better hurry or I'll miss them."

When he arrived in the underground parking lot, he didn't feel anyone's presence.

The atmosphere was heavy, the artificial light and concrete supports caused an unpleasant feeling.

Suddenly he heard footsteps in the distance.

Those sounds were getting closer.

"Sabrina."

Kazuki shouted out, but the one who appeared was none other than Juan.

He was alone.

"Well Kazuki, what's the matter? Did you leave something behind?"

"That's right."

"Strange, the rooms were checked before checking out, but I suppose I'll get someone to check again. If what you've left behind is found, I'll make sure to punish the one who checked the rooms the first time."

Juan was smiling as he said that, but Kazuki wasn't smiling at all.

"It's not an object that I forgot."

"It's not? What kind of a puzzle is this? Hmm, if you lost something, but it's not an object—."

"It's Sabrina."

"What?"

For an instant, a sinister expression was visible behind his smile.

"I can't say that I like those types of jokes, Kazuki. Also, I'm sure you heard from Sabrina before that you're a bother to her."

"You're right, but there's something I must make sure of. Let me meet with Sabrina one more time."

"Why are you so obsessed with Sabrina? I'm sure I told you that we'll be taking care of her from now on. Oh, I understand now!"

Juan clapped his hands as if he suddenly understood something.

"I see, so it's the sum. I guess the money wasn't enough for you. You're quite greedy, Kazuki."

"That's not it!"

Kazuki exclaimed to Juan, who was removing bills from his wallet.

"I don't need it! Or this!"

Kazuki threw the bundle of bills that he received earlier. The bundle scattered like falling leaves on the ground.

Juan's eyes grew cold and were glaring at Kazuki.

"She's no longer the same Sabrina you once knew. She's the boss of a mafia family now."

"I know that."

"No, you don't know at all."

He flexed his shoulders backwards.

And he removed a handgun from his sleeve like it was nothing.

Bang.

A dry sound echoed through the car park.

"Huh?"

Kazuki unconsciously kneeled.

His thigh felt like it was on fire.

Red blotches started becoming visible through his school uniform pants.

"Aaarrrrggghhhh!"

Kazuki's painful howl rang out. Juan had just shot him.

"Hey, hey, don't overreact."

Juan happily watched Kazuki writhing in pain. Kazuki desperately tried to resist the pain in his leg and glared at Juan.

"Mafia my ass. I can't leave Sabrina to you people. Return... Sabrina"

Juan wordlessly pulled the trigger.

Kazuki felt a huge impact in his shoulder.

This time he wasn't even able to scream. He started losing consciousness from the pain.

"Huu... kuh, kuh..."

While Kazuki suffered, Juan pulled him up by his hair.

"Excellent... it seems like you're special to Sabrina. If you tell her what you've just told me, she might actually remain in Japan. It would mess up my plans."

"Your plans...?"

Juan covered his mouth instantly, but he leisurely smiled again.

"W-What are you planning on doing to Sabrina...!?"

"Someone who's about to die doesn't need to know, does he? Well, I guess it doesn't really matter. You'll be separated for now, but she'll see you soon."

"D-Don't tell me, you're going to—. Sabrina is the boss of the Jevini family! Why would you do that!?"

"I'm doing this because she is the boss."

"Da...mn."

Then from the beginning, he was just using Sabrina...!

Unforgivable!

I won't let him!

"Ouaaaaaa!"

Kazuki head butted Juan in the nose after struggling free of his grip.

"Kuh."

Juan let out a surprised yell.

The two of them fell down. Exploiting the opportunity, Kazuki mounted Juan and swung his non-injured (right) fist at him.

But before his fist came into contact, Juan struggled and hit Kazuki in the temple with the gun.

"Ughh."

His sight became blurry and Kazuki stumbled.

While pinning Kazuki to the floor, Juan got in a better position. His once pure white suit was now covered in a large amount of blood from his nose.

"My nails...!?"

Juan looked at his fingernails while shaking. It seems like his precious nails broke in the struggle.

"This runt!"

He kicked Kazuki, who was still on the floor, in the stomach.

"Urrp."

Bile from Kazuki's stomach filled his throat.

His stomach was kicked over and over again.

After kicking Kazuki repeatedly, Juan was gasping for breath and held the gun under Kazuki's chin.

"Die."

The finger hovered over the trigger.

I need to do something... anything....

But his body wouldn't listen and his head was going blank.

I guess it's over for me...

I need to at least tell Sabrina... about Juan's plans.

Need to tell Sabrina—.

At that moment, there was an ear shattering noise.

Clang. Clang.

After the noise, two bullets flew towards Kazuki.

Kazuki's eyes traced the sound to the source of the bullets.

At the source of the bullets stood a young girl.

Kazuki was barely able to murmur the girl's name.

"Sa...brina."



"Are you Sabrina-san?"

While she was waiting for Juan in the lobby, someone walked up and spoke. Sabrina wordlessly looked at the speaker, who was a hotel employee with a cap covering his eyes.

"Your companion told me to pass along a message. The car to the airport couldn't be arranged, so he would like you to come to the underground parking lot."

Companion? ...Juan or Sofia?

"Si."

She curtly nodded and walked away.

Grruumbble.

Sabrina heard a noise she was familiar with and looked behind her... but there were only members of the hotel staff present.

So Sabrina decided to ignore it and head to the parking lot.

And now—.

There was an unbelievable sight before her eyes.

Juan was holding a gun and pointing it at a battered Kazuki.

Sabrina dropped her briefcase unknowingly. It hit the ground and the contents spilled.

"... What are you doing?"

Sabrina was barely able to say it. Juan let go of Kazuki's hair.

"Kazuki came all the way here to see you Sabrina. I tried to talk to him about it, but he suddenly rebelled. Look at my nose and my broken nails. Isn't that too much?"

With Kazuki laying motionlessly on the ground, Juan opened his arms wide in an innocent manner.

"..."

Sabrina didn't respond.

"Don't worry. I only punished him slightly. It's not like I was going to kill hi..."

"Shut up."

She coldly cut him off.

"I wasn't talking to scum like you, and no matter how much you try to make up excuses for yourself—."

A cold aura appeared around Sabrina.

"I will kill you."

In an instant, at a speed impossible to follow with the naked eye, Sabrina removed her gun and shot.

The bullet knocked Juan's gun out of his hand and sent it flying.

"Kuh."

He reached towards Kazuki to use him as a hostage, but it was too late.

Sabrina rapidly shot until her magazine ran out.

"Garrhh!"

Juan fell backwards as if someone just pushed him over.

Although Sabrina shot at him until she ran out of ammo, the gun contained rubber bullets. It obviously wouldn't cause any fatal injuries.

Nevertheless, it dealt a fair amount of damage. The areas hit should be useless.

"I- I will... k-kill you. I'll kill you and your precious Kazuki... urpp"

With his hands and feet immobilized, Juan could only lift his head up and curse at her.

Sabrina looked down at him and shifted her gaze to the two bullets lying on the ground near Kazuki.

One was a real bullet.

The other was a rubber bullet.

—Understand, Sabrina? Our number 1 Omertà is 「Do not hurt anyone. There are exceptions, but still, killing is not allowed.」 Got it?

She remembered what Kazuki told her before.

Omertà...

It... doesn't matter.

Because I'm no longer related to that person.

Sabrina picked up a bullet. She loaded it into her gun and took aim at Juan's head.

"Heeek! Stop it... don't!"

Juan was begging for his life.

Without hesitation, Sabrina pulled the trigger.

When the bullet hit Juan in the forehead, it send him flying like someone was dragging him head first from behind.

He slowly collapsed onto his side.

Seeing Juan in that state, Sabrina audibly sighed.

She heard a voice behind her.

"Sabrina, you... kept your promise... our Omertà."

It was Kazuki. He was dragging his feet as he slowly made his way to Sabrina.

"Uuu..."

At that moment, Juan groaned.

That's right. The bullet Sabrina shot was the rubber one.

"No, it was just a coincidence. Why did you come here in the first place?"

"I had something to say to you, Sabrina. So I came...."



"But I told you that I didn't have anything else to say to you."

Sabrina turned her back to Kazuki.

She rejected him.

Silence fell and it felt like the two of them were isolated from the rest of the world.

"Sabrina... let's go home."

Kazuki spoke first.

But Sabrina didn't look back.

"Why must I go with you? I'm a mafia boss. I told you that I have nothing to do with you."

Sabrina pushed Kazuki aside with cold words.

Why did you come back?

I tried so hard to forget about you Onii-chan.

Why won't you let me go?

Her heart started to ache again.

"You're lying when you say you have nothing to do with me!"

Sabrina flinched.

"Why are you telling me it's a lie? I'm not lying. I'm a dangerous person, an assassin in training and a mafia bo—."

"No."

Kazuki cut Sabrina off.

And continued...

"You're my family. I can tell when my little sister is lying."

Affected by his words, Sabrina quickly turned around.

Tears were rolling down her cheeks.

"Onii... chan..."

With his uninjured arm, Kazuki gently hugged Sabrina.

"Sorry Sabrina. I'm sorry for hurting you like this."

Kazuki stroked Sabrina's head softly with his hand.

As he did, Sabrina realized for the first time that heartache and tears were caused by being hurt.

However, she started crying in her brother's warm arms because of a different emotion.

Many different emotions were clashing inside her.

But she didn't need to hold back any longer.

"Uuuu, waaaa. Onii-chan... Onii-chan."

Sabrina was bawling her eyes out on Kazuki's chest.

"I want to be with you forever, Onii-chan..."

"Yeah, family should always be together."

"... Si, ... Si."

Kazuki patted her head softly.

"Welcome back, Sabrina."

"... Onii-chan."

Sabrina hugged Kazuki... Including his injured arm.

"... (*Press*)."

"It hurts—."

"... (*Presssss*)."

"... S-Sabrina, hold on. It hurts. Could you let me go? Look, I'm injured because I was shot."

"No... no."

She just wanted to be by her brother's side, so she couldn't let him go. She couldn't control her strength and hugged him even stronger.

"It hurts! It hurtsss! Sabrina, time out! Time outttt!"

"No."

Kazuki's painful yell echoed through the underground parking lot once more.

3

"Don't move!"

While Kazuki was being tightly hugged by Sabrina and screaming, he heard someone yelling at them.

It was Juan. It looked like he regained his senses. He was pointing the gun that he'd previously dropped at them.

Still tightly attached to Kazuki, Sabrina tried to turn her body.

"Oh no, don't move! Don't do anything suspicious."

Juan was in an unstable state. They could tell by the look in his eyes that he was about to do something.

I need to protect Sabrina...



Kazuki hung onto Sabrina tighter.

"You runts, how dare you look down on me..."

With a sinister smile, Juan placed his finger on the trigger.

"Wait—!"

A voice suddenly interrupted.

Ta ta ta ta!

Surprisingly, the one running towards them was Saki.

"Ehh-it!"

While Juan was caught off guard with the sudden intrusion, she swung a wooden box at his head.

Slam.

With a great noise, Juan was knocked out again.

"Ootaki-kun, are you ok!?"

"K-Kinoshita... how?"

"Si. Why are you interrupting our precious time together?"

"No, no, shouldn't you ask how she got here!?"

"You see, Izuna-san said 'I'll take you to a nice place' and she brought me here. But as soon as we arrived, she said 'Something smells good!' and ran away. So while I was looking for Izuna-san, I saw you guys. ...So, I guess I rushed in to help you out. Heh heh heh."

Saki, who was being shy, had shivering legs.

"But Ootaki-kun, those wounds..."

"Ah, yeah, it's a bit... but it's ok. It's nothing... maybe."

"Ah, that's right. I've brought a first aid kit."

"Wait. W-why did you bring that?"

The box that she swung at Juan was a first aid kit.

"It was Izuna-san who told me to. She said that I needed a first aid kit when going to a nice place."

The definition of a 'nice' place was completely off. That aside, it was great that she brought it.

"I think I'm starting to get dizzy from blood loss."

"Hold on, I'll treat yo—."

Rustle.

Sabrina stopped Saki's hand, which was reaching for bandages inside the first aid kit.

"Sabrina?"

"Thank you for bringing the first aid kit, but I'll be the one to treat Onii-chan."

Tug.

She tugged at the box.

However.

"Hold on! This is my first aid kit, so I think I have the right!"

Tug.

This time, Saki tugged it toward herself.

"Both of you..."

Tug, tug.

The box was being tugged back and forth between the two girls like a fishing net.

"Treat me..."

Tug, tug, tug.

Kazuki was able to faintly hear the girls' voices as his consciousness faded away.

"As soon as possi...ble."

Gulp.

With those words, Kazuki died... or more likely, he fell unconscious.



"Nya ha ha ha, they're as funny as ever."

"Is this your way of doing things?"

Izuna spoke to Sofia while they were watching the other three converse.

"Ah, not good! I need to go and run my business. Ah— so busy."

" But wait, you're a nun."

Sofia stopped Izuna who was trying to hurriedly run away while checking her non-existent watch.

"The one who put the envelope in my room, told the boy about Sabrina's location, and called Sabrina here was you, wasn't it? You're not very honest."

"What are you talking about? I don't know what you're talking about. Look, I'm just a nun."

"It doesn't really matter if you're a nun."

"... So, you found me out?"

Izuna laughed while scratching the back of her head.

"You're not that honest either. You were hiding in wait for a chance to help Kazuki out~."

"Um, that's... I don't know."

Since she didn't expect to be attacked that way, Sofia blushed and pretended not to know what the nun was talking about.

"Ah! Sabrina started to treat Kazuki in a loving way!"

"What!? I'm jealous! I'll kill that boy!"

When Sofia turned around to look at Sabrina by reflex, all she saw was Sabrina wrapping the bandages normally. While Sofia was distracted, Izuna ran away and left behind a ridiculously large bill of hotel services she used.

"Should we go after her?"

A girl wearing an eye-patch took Izuna's place in the conversation and picked up the bill.

"No, it's meaningless to do so anyway. I'll leave it to you."

When Sofia said that, the girl with the eye-patch motioned using her hand.

Many Jevini Family members gathered and took Juan away.

"I suspected something when the underboss accepted Sabrina, but I didn't expect him to try to assassinate her via a plane crash."

"The ones who were part of the plan were arrested in Italy. They really do hold all the information in the world, as expected of the 'Happy Crown.' Their fearsomeness is unchanging."

"Fearsome, huh... that aside, when you guys charged into my room, I thought I was going to die. To think that the special corps was moving against the underboss himself."

"Juan aimed for Sabrina's life. He broke the law, it was the obvious thing to do."

Sofia and the eye-patch girl both looked at Sabrina.

The emotionless girl that they once knew back in Italy was gone.

All they saw was a girl who loved her older brother very much.

"Will this really be ok?"

"Yeah, it doesn't matter to me. This is what she wanted, anyway."

"... Is that so."

"And..."

Sofia looked away from Sabrina and began looking at the girl with the eye-patch.

"I think being a mafia boss will be fulfilling."

Epilogo.

1

A week had passed since the ordeal.

Today was the first day they all went back to school. School had been on break because of the damage Juan caused, but resumed classes in the city's public facilities. The school was being fixed thanks to a large sum of money given to the school by an anonymous donor. It was a secret, but the money probably came from the Jevini family.

After being shot by Juan, Kazuki has been looked after by a doctor of the Jevini family. Although they were bullet wounds, since the injuries inflicted were in areas that healed fairly quickly, Kazuki considered himself lucky in an otherwise unlucky situation.

Kazuki told people who didn't know what happened that he fell down the stairs, but it still became a hot topic of discussion among the students for a while. Well, since Kazuki wasn't able to tell the truth, he didn't really mind.

Although most of his injuries already healed, he was still using crutches.

"Oops."

While going to school, Kazuki stumbled... but it wasn't because he wasn't used to the crutches.

The reason why he couldn't walk properly was Sabrina, in a round-about manner.

"Sabrina, isn't this hard for you? I don't want to trouble you, so I'll just use crutches. Could you give them back?"

"No, it's not a problem. I can protect you better than these things."

Sabrina had her hand around one of Kazuki's shoulders helping him walk. Unfortunately, due to their height difference, she wasn't so much helping him walk as she was pulling him down until he found it difficult to walk.

And every time they took a step, Sabrina's "tool box" bumped into him; thus, it was surprisingly painful. But since she was doing it out a good will, Kazuki didn't have the heart to tell her.

After becoming the boss of the Jevini family, Sabrina had to return to Italy.

But she remained in Japan and was living with Kazuki.

To understand how this happened, one would need to look back at what happened three days ago.



Three days ago, Kazuki and Sabrina were at the airport.

Since Sofia was returning to Italy, the two of them came to see her off.

On a side note, Juan and his men had already been sent off to Italy by the Jevini family. Apparently, a harsh punishment awaited to the traitors.

When Kazuki asked what kind of punishment was in store for them, Sofia thought for a bit and asked "I don't think you'll be able to eat meat for a while, is that ok?". Obviously, Kazuki chose not to inquire any further.

Outside on the runway, a plane soared off into the cloudless sky.

Soon it would also be time for Sofia's plane to depart.

"Thanks for coming here to see me off."

"Don't mind it, it's nothing really."

"I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to Sabrina."

Sofia glared at him.

"Ehh..."

"I wouldn't have come if Onii-chan didn't come with me."

"Hah."

After hearing Sabrina's words, Sofia's threatening expression quickly disappeared and tears started appearing in the corners of her eyes. When Sofia tried to complain, Sabrina hugged Kazuki's arm tightly and closed her eyes. A menacing look fell on Kazuki.

So he quickly changed the subject.

"Ah, by the way, is that really ok with Sabrina?"

"Ah, this?"

Sofia tapped the thick brown envelope she held in her hand.

"It's fine as long as I have these documents."

Inside were documents. One was to acknowledge that Sabrina was now the official boss of the Jevini family.

There was another document as well, it stated that 「 As the boss - Sabrina will be staying in Japan as a foreign exchange student and Sofia will take her place as the substitute boss. 」

"With this, Sabrina doesn't have to be in Italy."

"Are you ok with this though, Sofia-san?"

"This will benefit Sabrina for sure, but this is also a great opportunity for me. Our interests just happened to coincide."

"I see... thank you."

"I told you that I didn't do this for gratitude."

"But I still want to say thank you. Thank you."

When Kazuki bowed his head, Sofia snorted in an embarrassed manner.

"I told you this before, but don't let your guard down."

Her expression turned serious as she warned them.

"With this document I'm the boss on paper, but it won't change the fact that Sabrina is the real boss. Enemy mafia families... or like this time, even a Jevini family member could attack."

She paused for a moment.

And asked him;

"Do you still have the resolve to take in Sabrina?"

"I..."

The moments when the school blew up, Saki got hurt and Juan shot him started replaying in Kazuki's head.

He wasn't able to answer Sofia straight away. He didn't even know how to respond. Sabrina looked up at Kazuki while he was still frozen.

"Oh, are you scared?"

"To be honest, I'm... I'm scared when I think that something like this might happen again."

"Are you trying to run away?"

"No."

Kazuki looked straight at Sofia.

And he declared...

"I am scared, but I am also prepared. Sabrina is my little sister, after all."

Sofia's hand flashed for a moment as she looked away.

"... That's some good determination. If you answered me without thinking, I was going to kill you."

"What!?"

She put the switch blade back in her pocket. It seemed like Kazuki could've been killed on the spot.

"Onii-chan..."

Sabrina happily rubbed her nose on Kazuki's arm.

"Looks like it's time. I'll be off now — get away from her!"

"S-sorry. S-so, look after yourself. Hey, Sabrina."

"Si. I leave the paper work to you."

Sofia turned around.

"Ah, that's right."

She turned back around and moved her face near Kazuki's.

— You and Sabrina live in different worlds. It won't turn out well in the end.

He remembered what she said to him before. Kazuki's body stiffened.

"I leave Sabrina to you."

Sofia kissed Kazuki's cheek.

"What?"

Kazuki was unable to process what just happened and proceed to stare blankly at Sofia. Sabrina probably didn't see what just happened because of how she was standing, so she looked up at Kazuki in a puzzled manner.

He stroked his cheek. He was still able to feel the softness of Sofia's lips. Kazuki quickly blushed.

"Eh? Eh? Ehhh—hhh!"

"Why are you getting so worked up over something like this? Surprisingly, you have a cute side. That was to say thanks for what happened this time, and my way of saying that I trust you."

"Sofia-san..."

Trust. That single word made Kazuki feel happy.

However...

"But... if you do something to Sabrina, I won't forgive you!"

Sofia's expression quickly changed... at a shocking speed.

"Ah, ahh..."

"I'll let you taste various tortures used across the world. You'll believe you'd better off dead. Well, you won't die though."

She cracked her fingers and smiled evilly. Her eyes were out of focus and the scariest part was that she might actually do it.

"If you do, I won't forgive you."

Sabrina coldly said. Sofia turned to stone as she was bullying Kazuki.

"Eeep—."

With the large amount of mental damage dealt, Sofia dragged her feet and disappeared through the boarding gates.

Her figure as she walked away didn't give off the atmosphere of a boss, but a melancholic one instead.



And so, Sabrina remained in Kazuki's house.

"What should I do, I'm going to be late at this rate - eep."

Kazuki tripped over something and fell magnificently. After falling, he rubbed his nose and looked behind him... only to see a zombie, no, Izuna grabbing his leg.

"I—'m—hung—ry!"

Izuna crawled up Kazuki's body.

"Lord, I thank thee for thy mercy and gladly receive this daily bread. I bless this which is set before me and - I can't wait any more."

"Stop! Why are you offering a prayer!? Sabrina! D-do something!"

"Si."

Sabrina removed a cute pouch and opened it. Izuna, who was about to eat Kazuki (in a non-sexual way) stopped her hands.

"Izuna."

"Hmm!? Is that a packed lunch!?"

Sabrina threw the packed lunch away like she was throwing a soccer ball... it flew quite far.

"Woof, woof!"

Izuna chased it like a dog.

"Kyaa—aa!"

Saki stood there with a pale face. In her hands were some gardening tools. She probably had them to do some gardening at the cathedral.

"S-Sabrina, t-that was the lunch I packed for Ootaki-kun..."

"Si. I found the suspicious lunch inside the bag on the floor, so I used it."

"That was mine!"

Sabrina and Saki exchanged glances with one another.

"...You."

"..."

The two of them didn't move an inch and they both refused to back down.

Bite.

While Saki was focused on glaring at Sabrina, Sabrina bit her.

"Kyaa! It hurts, it hurts! I'm sorry~."

"Ah—hh! Sabrina, stop it!"

Kazuki pulled Sabrina off Saki.

"Are you ok, Kinoshita?"

"Yeah, somewhat.... Eh heh heh, I'm glad you were able to make up with Sabrina."

Saki wiped her tears away as she smiled happily.

"Yeah, it's all thanks to you, Kinoshita. Isn't that right, Sabrina?"

"Si. I'm really in your debt this time. Thanks to you, I'm now Onii-chan's 'family' and 'family.'"¹

"Ah, so I am part of that family now. I don't want to be involved in a fight for a while, though."

"It's ok. If we're together, we're invincible."

"Umm."

Saki held her hand up.

"Is it ok if I join that family as well? No, I need to join!"

"Ehh!? What are you saying, Kinoshita!?"

"But you two seem to be having lots of fun together. Hey, how do I sign up?"

"No, no. It's not an extra curriculum activity."

"Si. Others are not allowed to join."

¹ The first "family" means family as in mother, father, brother, sister, etc. The second "family" means the mafia family. Saki is confused thinking that the second "family" is like a club or something.

"Uuu..."

While Kazuki was persuading Saki, Izuna hopped on his back. Her breasts were pressing against him and he felt a soft, marshmallow-like sensation.

"Izuna-san!?"

"You don't really need all that to become a family. For example, get 'married.'"

""Married!?"""

Kazuki and Saki spoke at the same time. Sabrina also widened her eyes in surprise.

"So for that reason, Kazuki-kun will be mar—ried to me ☆"

"Whaaat!? What are you saying, Izuna-san!?"

"T-then I will!"

"Kinoshita as well!? Will that be ok!?"

"Si. Then me as well."

"Sabrina is a little sister!"

"It's fine, it's fine. Then, everyone will be competing with the Paradise Lost as our destination!"

"We're not! Everyone calm down—!"

Like always, Kazuki's yell echoed throughout the blue sky.

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